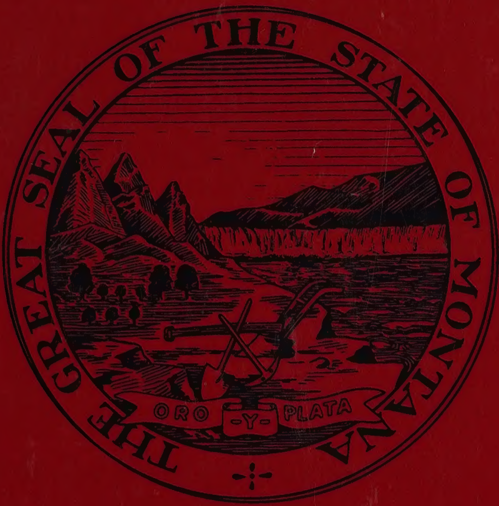
Montana Code Annotated
2023



Constitution of Montana • General Laws & Definitions
Government Structure & Administration
Judiciary, Courts • Legislative Branch

VOLUME 1

MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED
Statute Text 2023

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Telephone (406) 444-3064 Fax (406) 444-3036
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Printed and Bound by:
West, a Thomson Reuters business
610 Opperman Drive
Eagan, MN 55123

Indexing Services provided by:
LexisNexis
Matthew Bender & Company, Inc.
9443 Springboro Pike
Miamisburg, OH 45342

MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED - 2023

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OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MONTANA SENATE 2023

50 Members

34 Republicans

16 Democrats

OFFICERS

President	Jason Ellsworth
President Pro Tempore	Kenneth Bogner
Majority Leader	Steve Fitzpatrick
Majority Whips	Steve Hinebauch, Dennis Lenz, Tom McGillvray, Barry Usher
Minority Leader	Pat Flowers
Minority Whips	Shannon O'Brien, Susan Webber
Secretary of the Senate	Marilyn Miller
Sergeant at Arms	Gordon Vance

MEMBERS

Name	Party	District	Preferred Mailing Address
Bartel, Dan	R	15	PO Box 1181, Lewistown MT 59457-1181
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Hinebauch, Steve	R	18	610 Rd 118, Wibaux MT 59353-9058
Kelker, Kathy	D	24	2438 Rimrock Rd, Billings MT 59102-0556
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Lenz, Dennis	R	27	PO Box 20752, Billings MT 59104-0752
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McGillvray, Tom	R	23	Billings MT 59102-1119
McKamey, Wendy	R	12	33 Upper Millegan Rd, Great Falls MT 59405-8427
Molnar, Brad	R	28	PO Box 517, Laurel MT 59044-0517
Morigeau, Shane	D	48	10643 Upland Trl, Missoula MT 59804-9203
Noland, Mark	R	5	PO Box 1852, Bigfork MT 59911-1852
O'Brien, Shannon	D	46	Missoula MT 59802-3327
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Sales, Walt	R	35	3900 Stagecoach Trl, Manhattan MT 59741-8223
Salomon, Daniel	R	47	42164 Salomon Rd, Ronan MT 59864-9272

Small, Jason	R	21	HC 42 Box 674, Busby MT 59016-9703
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Trebas, Jeremy	R	13	PO Box 2364, Great Falls MT 59403-2364
Usher, Barry	R	20	6900 S Frontage Rd, Billings MT 59101-6220
Vance, Shelley	R	34	PO Box 1, Belgrade MT 59714-0001
Vermeire, Terry	R	39	1217 W 4th St, Anaconda MT 59711-1807
Webber, Susan	D	8	PO Box 1011, Browning MT 59417-1011
Welborn, Jeff	R	36	PO Box 790, Dillon MT 59725-0790
Zolnikov, Daniel	R	22	PO Box 50403, Billings MT 59105-0403

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2023

100 Members

68 Republicans
32 Democrats

OFFICERS

Speaker .... Matt Regier
Speaker Pro Tempore .... Rhonda Knudsen
Majority Leader .... Sue Vinton
Majority Whips .... Brandon Ler, Terry Moore, Jennifer Carlson, Neil Duram, Steve Gist, Denley Loge
Minority Leader .... Kim Abbott
Minority Caucus Chair .... Alice Buckley
Minority Whips .... Derek Harvey, Tyson Running Wolf, Katie Sullivan
Chief Clerk of the House .... Carolyn Tschida
Sergeant at Arms .... Brad Murfitt

MEMBERS

Name	Party	District	Preferred Mailing Address
Abbott, Kim	D	83	523 E 6th Ave, Helena MT 59601-4369
Anderson, Fred	R	20	Great Falls MT 59406-6921
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Bedey, David	R	86	PO Box 692, Hamilton MT 59840-0692
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Bertoglio, Marta	R	75	PO Box 294, Clancy MT 59634-0294
Binkley, Michele	R	85	PO Box 1601, Hamilton MT 59840-1601
Bishop, Laurie	D	60	211 S Yellowstone St, Livingston MT 59047-3018
Brewster, Larry	R	44	Billings MT 59105-2220
Brockman, Tony	R	9	PO Box 10016, Kalispell MT 59904-3016
Buckley, Alice	D	63	107 S 10th Ave, Bozeman MT 59715-4318
**Butcher, Ed	R	29	PO Box 89, Winifred MT 59489-0089
Buttrey, Ed	R	21	Great Falls MT 59401-3731
Caferro, Mary	D	82	PO Box 668, Helena MT 59624-0668
Carlson, Jennifer	R	69	Manhattan MT 59741-8488
Carter, Bob	D	98	4299 Spurgin Rd, Missoula MT 59804-4521
Cohenour, Jill	D	84	2610 Colt Dr, East Helena MT 59635-3442
Deming, Lee	R	55	Laurel MT 59044-9718
Dooling, Julie	R	70	PO Box 1933, Helena MT 59624-1933
Duram, Neil	R	2	PO Box 1226, Eureka MT 59917-1226
Essmann, Sherry	R	52	PO Box 80945, Billings MT 59108-0945
Etchart, Jodee	R	48	PO Box 22014, Billings MT 59104-2014
Falk, Terry	R	8	PO Box 9484, Kalispell MT 59904-2484
Fern, Dave	D	5	211 Dakota Ave, Whitefish MT 59937-2205
Fielder, Paul	R	13	PO Box 2558, Thompson Falls MT 59873-2558
Fitzgerald, Ross	R	17	PO Box 207, Power MT 59468-0207
Fitzpatrick, John	R	77	PO Box 994, Anaconda MT 59711-0994
*Flament, Douglas	R	29	PO Box 1082, Lewistown MT 59457-1082
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Frazer, Gregory	R	78	Deer Lodge MT 59722-1018
Galloway, Steven	R	24	Great Falls MT 59404-6235
Gillette, Jane	R	64	PO Box 1751, Bozeman MT 59771-1751
Gist, Steve	R	25	Cascade MT 59421-8369
Green, Paul	R	41	Hardin MT 59034-1315
Gunderson, Steve	R	1	Libby MT 59923-8965
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****Hastings, Naarah	R	50	Billings MT 59102
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Hinkle, Jedediah	R	67	Belgrade MT 59714-3564
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Karlen, Jonathan	D	96	PO Box 2960, Missoula MT 59806-2960
Kassmier, Josh	R	27	PO Box 876, Fort Benton MT 59442-0876
Keenan, Bob	R	10	PO Box 697, Bigfork MT 59911-0697
Keogh, Connie	D	91	PO Box 7542, Missoula MT 59807-7542
Kerns, Scot	R	23	Great Falls MT 59401-2273
Kerr-Carpenter, Emma	D	49	PO Box 22062, Billings MT 59104-2062
Kmetz, Greg	R	38	Miles City MT 59301-5527
Knudsen, Casey	R	33	PO Box 18, Malta MT 59538-0018
Knudsen, Rhonda	R	34	PO Box 734, Culbertson MT 59218-0734
Kortum, Kelly	D	65	PO Box 942, Bozeman MT 59771-0942
Ler, Brandon	R	35	Savage MT 59262-9460
Loge, Denley	R	14	St. Regis MT 59866-9610
Lynch, Jennifer	D	73	1312 Hobson Ave, Butte MT 59701-3430
Malone, Marty	R	59	PO Box 152, Pray MT 59065-0152
Marler, Marilyn	D	90	1750 S 8th St W, Missoula MT 59801-3445
Marshall, Ron	R	87	Hamilton MT 59840-3016
Matthews, Eric	D	66	Bozeman MT 59715-4448
Mercer, Bill	R	46	PO Box 2118, Billings MT 59103-2118
Miner, Russ	R	19	Great Falls MT 59405-8268
Mitchell, Braxton	R	3	PO Box 1765, Columbia Falls MT 59912-1765
Moore, Terry	R	54	Billings MT 59106-3313
Nave, Fiona	R	57	Columbus MT 59019-7357
Nicol, Nelly	R	53	PO Box 20692, Billings MT 59104-0692
Nikolakakos, George	R	26	Great Falls MT 59405-1338
Oblander, Greg	R	40	Billings MT 59102-6546
Parry, Gary	R	39	PO Box 455, Colstrip MT 59323-0455
Phalen, Bob	R	36	Lindsay MT 59339-9505
Read, Joe	R	93	Ronan MT 59864-2435
Regier, Amy	R	6	PO Box 10466, Kalispell MT 59904-3466
Regier, Matt	R	4	Kalispell MT 59904-2763
Reksten, Linda	R	12	Polson MT 59860-6960
Romano, Melissa	D	81	PO Box 6393, Helena MT 59604-6393
Running Wolf, Tyson	D	16	PO Box 377, Browning MT 59417-0377
Rusk, Wayne	R	88	PO Box 531, Corvallis MT 59828-0531
Schillinger, Jerry	R	37	PO Box 147, Circle MT 59215-0147
Seekins-Crowe, Kerri	R	43	Billings MT 59105-2742
Sheldon-Galloway, Lola	R	22	Great Falls MT 59404-6235
Smith, Frank	D	31	PO Box 729, Poplar MT 59255-0249
Smith, Laura	D	79	PO Box 1402, Helena MT 59624-1402
Smith, Tanner	R	11	PO Box 921, Lakeside MT 59922-0921
Sprunger, Courtenay	R	7	PO Box 8315, Kalispell MT 59904-8315
Stafman, Ed	D	62	PO Box 305, Bozeman MT 59771-0305
Stewart Peregoy, Sharon	D	42	PO Box 211, Crow Agency MT 59022-0211
***Stromswold, Mallerie	R	50	Billings MT 59106-1332
Sullivan, Katie	D	89	PO Box 7853, Missoula MT 59807-7853
Thane, Mark	D	99	PO Box 692, Missoula MT 59806-0692
Tuss, Paul	D	28	13 Spruce Dr, Havre MT 59501-5439
Vinton, Sue	R	56	PO Box 236, Billings MT 59103-0236
Walsh, Ken	R	71	PO Box 483, Twin Bridges MT 59754-0483
Weatherwax Jr, Marvin	D	15	PO Box 2828, Browning MT 59417-2828
Welch, Tom	R	72	Dillon MT 59725-2977
Windy Boy, Jonathan	D	32	PO Box 250, Box Elder MT 59521-0250
Wirth, Zack	R	80	Wolf Creek MT 59648-8747
Yakawich, Mike	R	51	PO Box 32004, Billings MT 59107-2004
Zephyr, Zooey	D	100	PO Box 5213, Missoula MT 59806-5213
Zolnikov, Katie	R	45	PO Box 51343, Billings MT 59105-1343

*Resigned January 10, 2023
**Appointed to fill vacated HD 29 seat

***Resigned January 14, 2023
****Appointed to fill vacated HD 50 seat

PREFACE

Adoption

Senate Bill No. 1, adopting the Montana Code Annotated (cited "MCA"), was passed by the 1979 Legislature and became effective January 10, 1979. That bill became Chapter 1, Laws of 1979. The provisions of law relating to recodification are found in Title 1, chapter 11, MCA.

Codification

The MCA is a compilation of existing general and permanent law, including the acts of the 68th Legislature of 2023 in regular session. Appropriation acts, resolutions, and laws temporary or special in character, such as repealing, validating, severability, or effective date clauses, are not codified. A list of R.C.M. 1947 sections not codified may be found in the Table of Corresponding Code Sections, R.C.M. 1947 to MCA, available upon request, which provides the disposition of all R.C.M. 1947 sections.

Arrangement

The Montana Code Annotated is arranged topically. This feature distinguishes the MCA from the 1947 code, in which the titles were arranged alphabetically. The user of the MCA will find titles that relate closely to one another logically and topically grouped in the code. Continuous rearrangement designed to maintain an orderly and logical arrangement is a permanent feature of the code under authority of section 1-11-204(3)(a)(ii), MCA.

Numbering System

The code uses a three-element numbering system. The number to the far left designates the title number, the number between the hyphens designates the chapter number, and the number to the right designates the part and section number. Thus, 1-2-305 indicates Title 1, chapter 2, part 3, section 5. Numbering is sequential, but numbers within chapters and parts and between titles have been skipped (reserved) to leave room for future expansion.

Editorial Changes

During the continuing recodification process, the Legislative Services Division staff screens statutes for obsolescence, conflicts, unconstitutionality, and incorrect grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, numbering, and outlining.

Changes in style that can be made in the text without changing the substance of the law are incorporated by the staff during codification. Errors, inconsistencies, and unconstitutional statutes that were discovered have been corrected by bills introduced in the 1977 through 2023 legislative sessions at the request of the Code Commissioner.

During the initial recodification process, nonsubstantive changes were made in the following areas:

(1) *Punctuation.* Being heavily laden with commas, the 1947 code did not conform with the more modern "open" style of punctuation that uses commas sparingly. The modern style allowed deletion of an average of five commas per section and more than 125,000 commas from the new code with no change in meaning, but with clarity enhanced.

(2) *Spelling.* The staff corrected obvious misspellings and updated archaic spellings with preferred spellings according to Webster's New World Dictionary.

(3) *Grammatical Construction.* There were three types of corrections that were made often under this category: making a pronoun agree with its antecedent in number, gender, and person; changing "nor" to "or"; and changing a verb to agree in number with the subject of a sentence.

(4) *Internal Numbering.* A uniform system of numbering internal paragraphs in a section was used: (1)(2)(3), (a)(b)(c), (i)(ii)(iii), (A)(B)(C). Thus, if the R.C.M. section began with "(a)(b)(c)", it was changed to "(1)(2)(3)".

(5) *"This Act".* The term "this act" was used thousands of times in the R.C.M. During recodification, "act" was changed wherever possible to a more precise term, such as "title", "chapter", "part", or "section". The original act was studied to determine exactly to which statutes the words "this act" applied, and the appropriate references were then substituted.

(6) *Effective Date.* The calendar date was inserted whenever possible for expressions such as "the effective date of this act", "passage and approval", or "hereafter".

(7) *Changes or Insertions Because of Rearrangement.* Language was inserted or changed whenever necessitated by rearrangement.

(8) *Redundancy.* Redundant words were eliminated.

(9) *Obsolete or Inaccurate References to Offices or Agencies.* There were many code sections needing changes because later acts affected names and terminology. For instance, the Executive Reorganization Act of 1971 abolished or renamed hundreds of offices and agencies. The recodification staff members searched the code for references to abolished or renamed offices and agencies. They also studied any amendments made between 1971 and 1977 that made further changes in the Executive Branch. After careful study to determine the law, the language was changed during the recodification process to reflect the current legal status of all affected offices or agencies.

Code Commissioner Reports

All changes, other than punctuation, capitalization, and spelling, made by the staff during the initial recodification are reported in the Official Report of the Montana Code Commissioner contained in the unnumbered volume of the 1978 MCA (red edition). Following each legislative session, all such changes made since the last report are reported and published in annotations, Vol. 1 (see section 1-11-204(3)(a)(iii), MCA). Previous reports can be found on the Montana Legislative Branch website at https://leg.mt.gov/statute/annotations/ under the section Code Commissioner Reports.

Effect of Changes

No presumption of legislative construction is to be drawn from the MCA code arrangement (section 1-11-103, MCA). In case of inconsistencies resulting from omissions or other errors in codification, the version of the official enrolled bill on file with the Secretary of State will prevail. Codification does not change the law, and the effect of each statute is the same as when originally enacted. Because the Code Commissioner has no legislative power, there can be no change in the law without legislative sanction. The function of codification is to organize law, not to change law.

Contents

(1) *Constitution and Rules of Court.* The code as adopted by Chapter 1, Laws of 1979, consists only of statute text and histories. The 1972 Montana Constitution, the Montana Uniform District Court Rules, the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, the Montana Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Montana Justice and City Court Rules of Civil Procedure, the Montana Uniform Rules for the Justice and City Courts, the Montana Uniform Municipal Court Rules of Appeal to District Court, and the Montana Rules of Evidence are printed with the code for the convenience of the user. However, the Supreme Court is responsible for the content, editing, and format of the rules.

(2) *Compiler's Comments.* Compiler's comments related to 2023 amendments and to certain significant earlier changes are printed with the code. Amendment notes contain the effective date of the amendment (see section 1-2-201, MCA). Earlier amendment notes have been transferred to the annotations. Compiler's comments related to other items of permanent significance are contained in the annotations (see the preface in any volume of the annotations).

(3) *Histories.* The user is cautioned to note that the reported history of each section in the MCA brought forward from the former code is the same history of the section as it appeared in the old code. When an R.C.M. section was split into several MCA sections, the history may be confusing or even misleading. To redo all histories to have them coincide exactly with MCA sections would have been nearly impossible. Legislative histories begin with the Bannack Statutes of 1864-65. References to the California Code and the Field Code of New York are also included because those codes are the source of Montana's 1892 Civil Code.

Legislative action taken since the 1979 recodification has been added to the end of the history.

Abbreviations used in the MCA histories are as follows:

Ad.—Adopted
amd.—Amended
Ap.p.—Appears in Part
C.—Code
C. Civ. Proc.—Code of Civil Procedure
Cal.—California
Ch.—Chapter
Civ. C.—Civil Code
Cod.—Codified
Comp.—Compiled
Const. Amend. No.—Constitutional Amendment Number
Const. Initiative No.—Constitutional Initiative Number
Div.—Division
En.—Enacted
Exec. Ord.—Executive Order
Ex. L.—Extra Laws
Field—Field Code of New York
I.M. No.—Initiative Measure Number
I.R. No.—Initiative Referendum Number
L.—Laws of
MCA—Montana Code Annotated
p.—Page
Pen. C.—Penal Code
Pol. C.—Political Code
R.C.M.—Revised Codes of Montana
redes.—Redesignated
re-en.—Reenacted
Ref. No.—Referendum Number
rep.—Repealed
Rev.—Revised
Sec.—Section
Sp. L.—Special Session Laws
Stat.—Statutes
Sup. Ct. Ord.—Supreme Court Order

Annotations

Annotations to the code are updated biennially and appear in separate volumes correlating to the statute text. The annotations are updated on a title-by-title basis.

Todd M. Everts
Code Commissioner
State Capitol
PO Box 201706
Helena MT 59620-1706

November 2023

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

CONSTITUTION OF MONTANA
AS ADOPTED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
MARCH 22, 1972, AND AS RATIFIED BY THE PEOPLE,
JUNE 6, 1972, REFERENDUM NO. 68

Preamble

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III. General Government.
IV. Suffrage and Elections.
V. The Legislature.
VI. The Executive.
VII. The Judiciary.
VIII. Revenue and Finance.
IX. Environment and Natural Resources.
X. Education and Public Lands.
XI. Local Government.
XII. Departments and Institutions.
XIII. General Provisions.
XIV. Constitutional Revision.

Transition Schedule

PREAMBLE

We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution.

Constitution Cross-References
Constitutional revision, Art. XIV, Mont. Const.
Montana Constitution to be published in MCA, 1-11-204.
Enrolled copy of constitution in custody of Secretary of State, 2-15-406.
Petition for initiative for constitutional amendment, 13-27-241.
Petition for initiative for Constitutional Convention, 13-27-242.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2930, 2931.
Committee report, Vol. II 620, 625, 957, 962, 969, 1036.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 36, 37, 1634, 1954, 2761.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2476, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 159, 168, 198, 245.
Final consideration, Trans. 2626, 2627.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1087.

ARTICLE I
COMPACT WITH THE UNITED STATES

Article Cross-References
The Enabling Act (see anno. vol. 1).
Ordinance No. 1 (see anno. vol. 1).
Sovereignty and jurisdiction of state, 2-1-102.
Cession and retrocession of jurisdiction for various purposes, Title 2, ch. 1, part 2.
Jurisdiction on Indian lands, Title 2, ch. 1, part 3.
Indian and federal water rights, Title 85, ch. 2, part 7.
Agreement with Indians concerning hunting and fishing on Flathead Indian Reservation, 87-1-228.
State-federal relationships regarding fish and wildlife, Title 87, ch. 1, part 7.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2931 through 2933.
Committee report, Vol. II 838 through 841, 1030 through 1032, 1037.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2567 through 2572, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 99, 294.
Final consideration, Trans. 2570 through 2573.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1087.

All provisions of the enabling act of Congress (approved February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676), as amended and of Ordinance No. 1, appended to the Constitution of the state of Montana and approved February 22, 1889, including the agreement and declaration that all lands owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States, continue in full force and effect until revoked by the consent of the United States and the people of Montana.

ARTICLE II
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Section
1. Popular sovereignty.
2. Self-government.
3. Inalienable rights.
4. Individual dignity.
5. Freedom of religion.
6. Freedom of assembly.
7. Freedom of speech, expression, and press.
8. Right of participation.
9. Right to know.
10. Right of privacy.
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12. Right to bear arms.
13. Right of suffrage.
14. Adult rights.
15. Rights of persons not adults.
16. The administration of justice.
17. Due process of law.
18. State subject to suit.
19. Habeas corpus.
20. Initiation of proceedings.
21. Bail.
22. Excessive sanctions.
23. Detention.
24. Rights of the accused.
25. Self-incrimination and double jeopardy.
26. Trial by jury.
27. Imprisonment for debt.
28. Criminal justice policy — rights of the convicted.
29. Eminent domain.
30. Treason and descent of estates.
31. Ex post facto, obligation of contracts, and irrevocable privileges.
32. Civilian control of the military.
33. Importation of armed persons.
34. Unenumerated rights.
35. Servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans.

Article Compiler's Comments

CI-116 Void: CI-116 was approved by the electorate on Nov. 8, 2016. However, in Montana Association of Counties v. State, 2017 MT 267, the Montana Supreme Court held that CI-116, enacting a new section under Article II, violates the separate vote requirement of Article XIV, section 11, of the Montana Constitution, and that CI-116 is therefore void in its entirety.

Text of CI-116 (Void) — Rights of Crime Victims: Sec. 1, Const. Initiative No. 116 as approved by the electorate read: "(1) To preserve and protect a crime victim's right to justice, to ensure a crime victim has a meaningful role in criminal and juvenile justice systems, and to ensure that a crime victim's rights and interests are respected and protected by law in a manner no less vigorous than the protections afforded to a criminal defendant and a delinquent youth, a crime victim has the following rights, beginning at the time of victimization:

(a) to due process and to be treated with fairness and respect for the victim's dignity;

(b) to be free from intimidation, harassment, and abuse;

(c) to be reasonably protected from the accused and any person acting on the accused's behalf;

(d) to have the victim's safety and welfare considered when setting bail and making release decisions;

(e) to prevent the disclosure of information that could be used to locate or harass the victim or that contains confidential or privileged information about the victim;

(f) to privacy, including the right to refuse an interview, deposition, or other discovery request and to set reasonable conditions on the conduct of any interaction to which the victim consents;

(g) to receive reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of and to be present at all proceedings involving the criminal conduct, plea, sentencing, adjudication, disposition, release, or escape of the defendant or youth accused of delinquency and any proceeding implicating the rights of the victim;

(h) to be promptly notified of any release or escape of the accused;

(i) to be heard in any proceeding involving the release, plea, sentencing, disposition, adjudication, or parole of the defendant or youth accused of delinquency and any proceeding implicating the rights of the victim;

(j) to confer with the prosecuting attorney;

(k) to provide information regarding the impact the offender's conduct had on the victim for inclusion in the presentence or predisposition investigation report and to have the information considered in any sentencing or disposition recommendations submitted to the court;

(l) to receive a copy of any presentence report and any other report or record relevant to the exercise of a right of the victim, except for those portions made confidential by law;

(m) to the prompt return of the victim's property when no longer needed as evidence in the case;

(n) to full and timely restitution. All money and property collected from a person who has been ordered to make restitution must be applied first to the restitution owed to the victim before paying any amounts owed to the government.

(o) to proceedings free from unreasonable delay and to a prompt and final conclusion of the case and any related postjudgment proceedings;

(p) to be informed of the conviction, sentence, adjudication, place and time of incarceration, or other disposition of the offender, including any scheduled release date, actual release date, or escape;

(q) to be informed of clemency and expungement procedures; to provide information to the governor, the court, any clemency board, or any other authority and to have that information considered before a decision is made; and to be notified of any decision before the release of the offender; and

(r) to be informed of the above rights and to be informed that the victim may seek the advice and assistance of an attorney with respect to the above rights. This information must be made available to the general public and provided to all crime victims on what is referred to as a Marsy's card.

(2) A victim, the victim's attorney, the victim's legal representative, or the prosecuting attorney at the request of the victim may assert and seek enforcement of the rights enumerated in this section and any other right afforded to the victim by law in any trial or appellate court or any other authority with jurisdiction over the case as a matter of right. The court or other authority shall act promptly on the request, affording a remedy by due course of law for the violation of any right. The reasons for any decision regarding disposition of a victim's right must be clearly stated on the record.

(3) This section may not be construed to deny or disparage other rights possessed by victims. This section applies to criminal and youth court proceedings, is self-executing, and requires no further action by the legislature.

(4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Crime" means an act defined as a felony, misdemeanor, or delinquency under state law.

(b) "Victim" means a person who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime.

(i) The term includes:

(A) a spouse, parent, grandparent, child, sibling, grandchild, or guardian of the victim;

(B) a person with a relationship to the victim that is substantially similar to a relationship described in subsection (4)(b)(i)(A); and

(C) a representative of a victim who is a minor or who is deceased, incompetent, or incapacitated.

(ii) The term does not include the accused or a person who the court believes would not act in the best interests of a minor or of a victim who is deceased, incompetent, or incapacitated.

Preamble of CI-116 (Void): The preamble attached to Const. Initiative No. 116 provided: "WHEREAS, the People of the State of Montana find that a crime victim in Montana is entitled to enhanced, specific, and meaningful rights to participate in criminal and youth court proceedings and enact the following new section of Article II of The Constitution of the State of Montana. The section is named for a noted victim of crime, Marsy, in whose name many states have enacted comparable reforms."

Section 1. Popular sovereignty. All political power is vested in and derived from the people. All government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Cross-References

Self-government, Art. II, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Right of participation in governmental affairs, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of suffrage, Art. II, sec. 13, Mont. Const.
General government, Art. III, Mont. Const.
Constitutional revision, Art. XIV, Mont. Const.
Government Structure and Administration, Title 2.
Basic political rights, Title 49, ch. 1, part 2.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 620, 626, 957, 962, 967, 969, 1038.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1635, 1636.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2476, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2627, 2628.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1087.

Section 2. Self-government. The people have the exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state. They may alter or abolish the constitution and form of government whenever they deem it necessary.

Cross-References
Popular sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
General government, Art. III, Mont. Const.
Local government, Art. XI, Mont. Const.
Constitutional revision, Art. XIV, Mont. Const.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 620, 626, 957, 962, 967, 969, 1038.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1636.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2476, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2628, 2629.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1087.

Section 3. Inalienable rights. All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways. In enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities.

Cross-References
Right to bear arms, Art. II, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Environment and natural resources, Art. IX, Mont. Const.
Department of Agriculture, Title 2, ch. 15, part 30.
Department of Livestock, Title 2, ch. 15, part 31.
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 33.
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Title 2, ch. 15, part 34.
Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.
Water Courts, Title 3, ch. 7.
Environmental Quality Council, Title 5, ch. 16.
Coal severance tax, Title 15, ch. 35.
Resource indemnity trust tax, Title 15, ch. 38.
Parks, Title 23, ch. 1.
Recreation, Title 23, ch. 2.
Prohibited transactions with foreign adversaries, 35-30-103.
Human Rights, Title 49.
Health and Safety, Title 50.
Environmental Protection, Title 75.
State Lands, Title 77.
Agriculture, Title 80.
Livestock, Title 81.
Minerals, Oil, and Gas, Title 82.
Water Use, Title 85.
Fish and Wildlife, Title 87.
Resource development and reclamation, Title 90, ch. 2.
Energy development and conservation, Title 90, ch. 4.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 620, 626 through 628, 957, 962, 967, 969, 1038.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1240, 1636, 1640, 1642, 1756, 1809, 2294, 2370, 2690.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2476, 2477, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 75, 96, 107, 108, 142, 207, 242, 261, 308, 309.
Final consideration, Trans. 2629, 2630.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1087.

Section 4. Individual dignity. The dignity of the human being is inviolable. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws. Neither the state nor any person, firm, corporation, or institution shall discriminate against any person in the exercise of his civil or political rights on account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas.

Cross-References

Criminal justice policy — rights of convicted, Art. II, sec. 28, Mont. Const.
Servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans allowed special consideration, Art. II, sec. 35, Mont. Const.
Discrimination in education prohibited, Art. X, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Elimination of sexual discrimination in statutes, 1-2-105.
Nepotism, Title 2, ch. 2, part 3.
Human Rights Commission, 2-15-1706.
Comparable worth — state employees, 2-18-208.
Discrimination prohibited in urban renewal projects, 7-15-4207.
Discrimination against members of organized militia in employment prohibited, 10-1-1009.
Impartiality in state contracts — Montana preference provisions, 18-1-111.
Discrimination by University System prohibited, 20-25-101.
Right of university student to privacy, 20-25-511 through 20-25-516.
Discrimination in work-study programs prohibited, 20-25-707.
Insurance — unfair discrimination prohibited, 33-18-206.
Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.
Marriage between persons of same sex prohibited, 40-1-401.
Malicious intimidation or harassment relating to civil or human rights, 45-5-221.
Sentence enhancement — offenses because of victim's race, creed, religion, color, or national origin, 45-5-222.
Human Rights, Title 49.
Discrimination in insurance and retirement plans, 49-2-309.
Political activity of employees of Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks limited, 87-1-204.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 620, 628, 957, 962, 967, 969, 1038.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1642 through 1646, 2032, 2044, 2151, 2496.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2477, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 94, 105, 126, 127, 148, 149, 161, 223, 312, 313.
Final consideration, Trans. 2630, 2631.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1087.

Section 5. Freedom of religion. The state shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Cross-References

Discrimination on basis of religion prohibited, Art. II, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; Title 49.
Aid prohibited to sectarian schools, Art. X, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Religious discrimination prohibited in education, Art. X, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Coercion or undue influence of voters based on religion, 13-35-218.
Religious instruction released time program, 20-1-308.
Exemption from school immunization requirement on religious grounds, 20-5-405.
Distribution of sectarian or denominational publication in schools prohibited — prayer in schools permitted, 20-7-112.
Securities issued by religious organization exempt from regulation, 30-10-104.
Religious corporations sole, Title 35, ch. 3.
License to practice medicine not required for practice of Christian Science or circumcisions by rabbis, 37-3-103.
Duty of Christian Scientists and religious healers to report dependent and neglected child, 41-3-201.
Management of funds by religious institutions, Title 72, ch. 30.
Possession of eagle parts or plumage by Indians — religious purposes, 87-5-201.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 620, 621, 629, 957, 963, 969, 970, 1038.
Cross references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1646, 1647, 1738, 2015, 2745.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2477, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 189, 190, 312, 313, 315.
Final consideration, Trans. 2631, 2632.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1087.

Section 6. Freedom of assembly. The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, petition for redress or peaceably protest governmental action.

Cross-References

Immunity of legislator for speech or debate in Legislature, Art. V, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Public participation in governmental operations, Title 2, ch. 3.

Disaster and emergency services law not to interfere with dissemination of news or public comment, 10-3-102.
Limitation on political activity — disaster and emergency services organization, 10-3-112.
Prevention of public meetings of electors, 13-35-213.
Criminal contempt, 45-7-309.
Conduct disruptive of public order, Title 45, ch. 8, part 1.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 629, 958, 963, 967, 970, 1038.
Cross references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1647 through 1649.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2477 through 2481, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2632, 2633.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1087.

Section 7. Freedom of speech, expression, and press. No law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech or expression. Every person shall be free to speak or publish whatever he will on any subject, being responsible for all abuse of that liberty. In all suits and prosecutions for libel or slander the truth thereof may be given in evidence; and the jury, under the direction of the court, shall determine the law and the facts.

Cross-References

Immunity of legislator for speech or debate in Legislature, Art. V, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Jurisdiction denied Justice's Court in libel or slander action, 3-10-301.
Disaster and emergency services law not to interfere with dissemination of news or public comment, 10-3-102.
Limitation on political activity of disaster and emergency services organization, 10-3-112.
Electioneering at polling place on election day prohibited, 13-35-211.
Illegal influence of voters, 13-35-214.
Coercion or undue influence of voters, 13-35-218.
Election materials not to be anonymous, 13-35-225.
Unlawful acts of employers and employees relating to elections, 13-35-226.
Prohibited political contributions from corporations and unions, 13-35-227.
Political party not to endorse judicial candidate, 13-35-231.
Issues of law to be decided by court, 25-7-102.
Questions of law, 26-1-201.
Privileged communications, Title 26, ch. 1, part 8.
Media Confidentiality Act, Title 26, ch. 1, part 9.
Libel and slander generally, Title 27, ch. 1, part 8.
Statute of limitations on libel and slander actions, 27-2-204.
Defamatory material unregistrable as trademark, 30-13-303.
Defamation by consumer reporting agencies, 31-3-141.
Release of information by physician concerning minor, 41-1-403.
Intimidation, 45-5-203.
Bribery in official and political matters, 45-7-101.
Threats and other improper influence in official and political matters, 45-7-102.
Perjury, 45-7-201.
False swearing, 45-7-202.
Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.
False alarms to agencies of public safety, 45-7-204.
False reports to law enforcement authorities, 45-7-205.
Unauthorized communication with person subject to official detention, 45-7-307.
Criminal contempt, 45-7-309.
Disorderly conduct, 45-8-101.
Incitement to riot, 45-8-104.
Criminal syndicalism, 45-8-105.
Failure to yield party line, 45-8-114.
Obscenity, 45-8-201.
Privacy in communications, 45-8-213.
Criminal defamation, 45-8-215.
Desecration of flags, 45-8-215.
Protection from defamation basic personal right, 49-1-101.
Limitation of political activities of employees of Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 87-1-204.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 629, 630, 958, 963, 970, 1038.
Cross references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1649 through 1651, 1675, 2491, 2493.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2481, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 127.
Final consideration, Trans. 2633, 2634.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1087.

Section 8. Right of participation. The public has the right to expect governmental agencies to afford such reasonable opportunity for citizen participation in the operation of the agencies prior to the final decision as may be provided by law.

Cross-References

Right to petition for redress, Art. II, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Public participation in governmental operations, Title 2, ch. 3.
Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Municipal governments to develop procedures to permit and encourage participation, 7-1-4142.
School district trustee meetings, 20-3-322.
School district trustees' review of architectural services, 20-6-634.
School district trustees' emergency budget meeting, 20-9-165.
Violation of open meeting law, 45-7-401.
Disturbing or disrupting public meetings, 45-8-101.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 630, 631, 958, 963, 967, 970, 1038, 1039.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1651 through 1669, 1733, 2560, 2875.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2481, 2482, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 133.
Final consideration, Trans. 2634 through 2636.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 9. Right to know. No person shall be deprived of the right to examine documents or to observe the deliberations of all public bodies or agencies of state government and its subdivisions, except in cases in which the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

Cross-References

Right of participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Legislative sessions, committee meetings, and hearings open to public, Art. V, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Confidentiality in proceedings of Judicial Standards Commission, Art. VII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.; 3-1-1105.
Public participation in governmental operations, Title 2, ch. 3.
Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.
Public information requests — fees, 2-6-1006.
Written notice of denial — failure to meet response deadline — civil action — costs to prevailing party in certain actions to enforce constitutional or statutory rights, 2-6-1009.
Filing and review of audits of political subdivisions — publication, 2-7-514, 2-7-515, 2-7-521.
Case register of Attorney General, 2-15-501.
State Records Committee, 2-6-1107.
Sittings of courts to be public, 3-1-312.
Confidentiality of proceedings in actions for dissolution, criminal conversation, or seduction, 3-1-313.
Judicial vacancies — public comment, 3-1-904.
Form and reporting of Supreme Court decisions, Title 3, ch. 2, part 6.
Election records open to public, 13-1-109.
Cigarette hearings, 16-11-103.
Ownership of public obligations — no inspection, 17-5-1106.
Notice of claim on performance, labor, or material bond, 18-2-204.
Control of state printing, Title 18, ch. 7, part 3.
Proceedings of Teachers' Retirement Board, 19-20-201.
Records of university student, 20-25-515, 20-25-516.
Deposit of state publications in state library, 22-1-213.
Montana Library Records Confidentiality Act, Title 22, ch. 1, part 11.
Preservation of records, Title 22, ch. 3, part 2.
Board of Horseracing records, 23-4-103.
Register of securities, 30-10-107.
Confidentiality of unfair trade practice investigation records, 30-14-114.
Confidentiality of reports and examinations of financial institutions to Department of Administration, 32-1-234, 32-2-710.
Confidentiality of parenting proceedings, 40-4-216.
Confidentiality of artificial insemination information, 40-6-106.
Confidentiality in paternity proceedings, 40-6-111, 40-6-114, 40-6-120.
Confidentiality of birth certificate under certain circumstances, 40-6-123.
Confidentiality and disclosure of child abuse and neglect records, 41-3-205.
Access to Youth Court records, 41-5-215.
Attendance at Youth Court adjudicatory hearing, 41-5-1502.
Criminal justice information, Title 44, ch. 5.
Confidentiality of records of the state, employers, labor organizations, and employment agencies with regard to age, sex, and race, 49-2-102.

Interpreters for the deaf in official proceedings, Title 49, ch. 4, part 5.
Vital statistics information, Title 50, ch. 15.
Confidentiality of inhospital medical staff committee information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 2.
Uniform Health Care Information Act, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.
Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.
Confidentiality of vehicle accident reports, 61-7-114.
Natural areas preservation information, 76-12-116.
Confidentiality of data relating to agricultural chemical ground water protection, 80-15-108.
Strip- or underground-mining permit application, 82-4-222.
Opencut mining reclamation contract, plan, and amendments, 82-4-434.
Records of Board of Oil and Gas Conservation, 82-11-117.
Weather modification records, 85-3-303.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 631, 632, 958, 963, 970, 1039.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1658, 1669 through 1680, 1733, 2176, 2201, 2560, 2578, 2582.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2482 through 2501, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 111, 133, 157, 164, 276.
Final consideration, Trans. 2636, 2637.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 10. Right of privacy. The right of individual privacy is essential to the well-being of a free society and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Personal papers of Executive Branch officers, 2-6-1113.
Confidentiality of court proceedings in actions for dissolution, criminal conversation, or seduction, 3-1-313.
Judicial vacancies — public comment, 3-1-904.
Confidentiality of Judicial Standards Commission, 3-1-1105.
Residences and records of university students protected, 20-25-511 through 20-25-516.
Montana Library Records Confidentiality Act, Title 22, ch. 1, part 11.
Privileged communications, Title 26, ch. 1, part 8.
Media Confidentiality Act, Title 26, ch. 1, part 9.
Confidentiality of unfair trade practices investigation, 30-14-114.
Consumer reporting agencies, Title 31, ch. 3, part 1.
Confidentiality of reports and examinations of financial institutions to Department of Administration, 32-1-234, 32-2-710.
Confidentiality of hearing on unsafe operation or removal of officer of bank or trust, 32-1-910.
Confidentiality in electronic funds transfer systems, 32-6-105, 32-6-106.
Behavioral health practitioners — privileged communications, 37-39-301.
Microchip implantation — prohibitions, Title 39, ch. 2, part 15.
Confidentiality of parenting proceedings, 40-4-216.
Confidentiality of artificial insemination information, 40-6-106.
Privilege of physician-patient communications suspended in certain circumstances, 40-6-106, 41-3-201, 41-3-204, 41-3-437.
Confidentiality in paternity proceedings, 40-6-111, 40-6-114, 40-6-120.
Confidentiality of birth certificate under certain circumstances, 40-6-123.
Confidentiality and disclosure of child abuse and neglect proceedings, 41-3-205.
Privilege of husband-wife communications suspended in certain actions, 41-3-437, 45-5-712.
Confidentiality of youth placement committee meetings and records, 41-5-125.
Access to Youth Court records, 41-5-215.
Attendance at Youth Court adjudicatory hearing, 41-5-1502.
Criminal justice information, Title 44, ch. 5.
Criminal intelligence information section, Title 44, ch. 5, part 5.
Criminal intelligence information — protection of individual privacy, 44-5-515.
Criminal offense of violating privacy in communications, 45-8-213.
Confidentiality of records of the state, employers, labor organizations, and employment agencies with regard to age, sex, and race, 49-2-102.
Confidentiality of inhospital medical staff committee information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 2.
Uniform Health Care Information Act, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.
Confidentiality of vehicle accident reports, 61-7-114.
Confidentiality of data relating to agricultural chemical ground water protection, 80-15-108.
Information obtainable by Governor during energy emergency, 90-4-304.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 632, 633, 958, 963, 970, 1039.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1643, 1680 through 1685, 1688, 1730, 1733, 1850 through 1853, 2488.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2501, 2921.

Delegate proposals, Vol. I 98, 127.
Final consideration, Trans. 2637, 2638.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 11. Searches and seizures. The people shall be secure in their persons, papers, electronic data and communications, homes and effects from unreasonable searches and seizures. No warrant to search any place, to seize any person or thing, or to access electronic data or communications shall issue without describing the place to be searched or the person or thing to be seized, or without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation reduced to writing.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 48, approved Nov. 8, 2022.

Compiler's Comments

2022 Amendment by Referendum: Constitutional Amendment No. 48, proposed by Ch. 370, L. 2021, and approved at the general election held November 8, 2022, in first sentence after "papers" inserted "electronic data and communications"; in second sentence after "any place" substituted "to" for "or" and after "any person or thing" inserted "or to access electronic data or communications"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023. (See text of referendum in final volume of 2023 Laws of Montana.)

Former Constitutional Provision: This section is identical to Art. III, sec. 7, 1889 Mont. Const., except for minor grammatical changes.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Application for search warrant in City Court, 3-11-102.
Search for and seizure of unlawful alcoholic beverages, 16-3-402, 16-6-102.
Forfeiture of seized resalable alcoholic beverages, 16-6-106, 16-6-107.
Seizure power of Department of Revenue in enforcing cigarette tax, 16-11-141, 16-11-147.
Search of university student's residence, 20-25-511 through 20-25-514.
Seizure power of Department of Labor and Industry to enforce chapter on weights, measures, standards, and labeling, 30-12-209, 30-12-210.
Seizure related to controlled substances (drugs), Title 44, ch. 12.
Search and seizure generally, Title 46, ch. 5.
Motion to suppress illegally seized evidence, 46-13-302.
Search and seizure powers of game wardens, 87-1-506, 87-1-513.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 633, 958, 963, 967, 970, 1039.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1682 through 1689, 1751, 1851, 1852.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2501, 2502, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 98.
Final consideration, Trans. 2638, 2639.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 12. Right to bear arms. The right of any person to keep or bear arms in defense of his own home, person, and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but nothing herein contained shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.

Cross-References

Militia, Art. VI, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; Title 10, ch. 1.
Observance of right to keep and bear arms, 1-1-224.
Discharge of firearm from snowmobile prohibited, 23-2-633.
Justifiable use of force, Title 45, ch. 3.
Criminal provisions relating to weapons, Title 45, ch. 8, part 3.
Restriction on local government regulation of firearms, 45-8-351.
Gun Owners Access to Justice Act, 49-1-208 through 49-1-210.
Issuance of permits by Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to carry firearms only to officers and wardens, 87-1-201.
Use of firearms on or around public waters, 87-1-303.
Possession or discharge of firearms on game preserve prohibited, 87-5-401.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 634, 958, 963, 970, 1039.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1724 through 1744, 1832 through 1843, 2369.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2502, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 78, 79.
Final consideration, Trans. 2639, 2640.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 13. Right of suffrage. All elections shall be free and open, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

Cross-References

Suffrage and elections, Art. IV, Mont. Const.
Elections, Title 13.
Soliciting information from electors prohibited, 13-35-211.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 634, 958, 963, 970, 1039.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1738, 1744, 1745.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2502, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2640, 2641.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 14. Adult rights. A person 18 years of age or older is an adult for all purposes, except that the legislature or the people by initiative may establish the legal age for purchasing, consuming, or possessing alcoholic beverages and marijuana.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 4, approved Nov. 7, 1978; amd. Const. Amend. No. 16, approved Nov. 4, 1986; amd. Const. Initiative No. 118, approved Nov. 3, 2020.

Compiler's Comments

2020 Amendment by Initiative: Constitutional Initiative No. 118, proposed by initiative petition and approved at the general election held November 3, 2020, at end of section inserted "and marijuana". Amendment effective July 1, 2021.

Cross-References

Declaration of rights, Art. II, Mont. Const.
Rights of persons not adults, Art. II, sec. 15, Mont. Const.
Age requirements for election to certain state offices, Art. VI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Voter age qualifications, 13-1-111.
Unlawful possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age, 16-3-301, 16-6-314, 45-5-624.
Unlawful to sell or give alcoholic beverages to person under 21 years of age, 16-3-301, 45-5-623.
Age limit for sale of alcoholic beverages, 16-6-305.
Sale or distribution of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products to persons under 18 years of age prohibited, 16-11-305.
Admittance of child to school, 20-5-101.
Age requirements for marriage, 40-1-202.
Minors and adults defined, 41-1-101.
Human Rights, Title 49.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 635, 958, 963, 967, 970, 1039.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1695, 1745 through 1749.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2502, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 97.
Final consideration, Trans. 2641, 2642.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 15. Rights of persons not adults. The rights of persons under 18 years of age shall include, but not be limited to, all the fundamental rights of this Article unless specifically precluded by laws which enhance the protection of such persons.

Cross-References

Declaration of rights, Art. II, Mont. Const.
Adult rights, Art. II, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Residence of minor, 1-1-215.
Regulation of sales by minors to pawnshops, 7-21-4208.
Establishment of curfew for minors, 7-32-2302.
Voter age qualifications, 13-1-111.
Unlawful possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age, 16-3-301, 16-6-314, 45-5-624.
Unlawful selling or giving of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 years of age, 16-3-301, 16-6-305, 45-5-623.
Sale or distribution of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products to persons under 18 years of age prohibited, 16-11-305.
Minor as beneficiary under state retirement system, 19-2-803.
Use of force by parent, guardian, or teacher, 20-4-302, 45-3-107.
Age requirements for school admission and compulsory attendance, 20-5-101 through 20-5-103.
Minors under 12 years of age to wear life preservers on boats, 23-2-521.
Minimum age for waterskiing activities, 23-2-529.
Minors prohibited from gambling, 23-4-301.
Right of minor to bring civil action, 27-1-511.

Effect of minority on statutes of limitation, 27-2-401.
Capacity of minors to contract, 28-2-201.
Contracts in restraint of marriage, 28-2-706.
Capacity of minor to appoint agent, 28-10-104, 28-10-704.
Effect of minority on negotiable instruments, 30-3-305.
Personal solicitation sales by minors, 30-14-502.
Bank deposits in minor's name, 32-1-444.
Deposit in name of minor, 32-2-917.
Minor's accounts in credit unions, 32-3-504.
Contract of minor for insurance, 33-15-103.
Minor prohibited from serving on board of advisors or consultants of corporation sole, 35-3-208.
Employment of minors in liquor establishment, 39-2-306.
Age requirements for marriage, 40-1-202.
Termination of marriage, parenting, support, Title 40, ch. 4.
Enforcement of support, Title 40, ch. 5.
Parent and child, Title 40, ch. 6.
Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, Title 40, ch. 7.
Grandparent-grandchild contact, Title 40, ch. 9.
Rights and obligations of minors, Title 41, ch. 1.
Minors and adults defined, 41-1-101.
Child labor, Title 41, ch. 2.
Child abuse, neglect, and dependency, Title 41, ch. 3.
Interstate placement of children, Title 41, ch. 4.
Montana Youth Court Act, Title 41, ch. 5.
Interstate Compact on Juveniles, Title 41, ch. 6.
Missing children information program, Title 44, ch. 2, part 5.
Extension of time limitations on prosecution of certain crimes because of minority of victim, 45-1-205.
Consent of youth to criminal offense ineffective, 45-2-211.
Nonsupport as criminal offense, 45-5-621.
Endangering welfare of children, 45-5-622.
Child sex trafficking, 45-5-622, 45-5-711.
Unlawful transactions with children, 45-5-623.
Sexual abuse of children, 45-5-625.
Ritual abuse of minor, 45-5-627.
Possession or consumption of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products by persons under 18 years of age prohibited — unlawful attempt to purchase — penalties, 45-5-637.
Providing obscene material to minors, 45-8-201.
Use of firearms by children under 14 years of age prohibited, 45-8-344, 45-8-345.
Interview of child under age 16, 46-15-320.
Human Rights, Title 49.
Creating hazard to minors, 50-30-220.
Public assistance — children, Title 52, ch. 2.
Youthful offenders, Title 52, ch. 5, part 1.
Age requirements for driver's license, 61-5-105, 61-5-106.
Headgear required for minor motorcycle riders, 61-9-417.
Guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.
Transfers to minors, Title 72, ch. 26.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 621, 622, 635, 636, 958, 964, 967, 970, 971, 1039.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1749 through 1753.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2502, 2503, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 166, 199.
Final consideration, Trans. 2642, 2643.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 16. The administration of justice. Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and speedy remedy afforded for every injury of person, property, or character. No person shall be deprived of this full legal redress for injury incurred in employment for which another person may be liable except as to fellow employees and his immediate employer who hired him if such immediate employer provides coverage under the Workmen's Compensation Laws of this state. Right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, or delay.

Cross-References

Due process of law, Art. II, sec. 17, Mont. Const.
State subject to suit, Art. II, sec. 18, Mont. Const.
Initiation of criminal proceedings, Art. II, sec. 20, Mont. Const.
Trial by jury, Art. II, sec. 26, Mont. Const.
The judiciary, Art. VII, Mont. Const.
Liability exposure of governmental entities and officers, Title 2, ch. 9, part 1.

Claims and actions against state and political subdivisions, Title 2, ch. 9, part 3.
Workers' Compensation Judge, 2-15-1707.
Courts and judicial officers generally, Title 3, ch. 1.
Immunity of civil defense workers, 10-3-111.
Civil Procedure, Title 25.
Evidence, Title 26.
Remedies, Title 27.
Limitation on punitive damages, 27-1-221.
Obligations imposed by law, Title 28, ch. 1, part 2.
Contracts exempting persons from liability, 28-2-702.
Unfair trade practices and consumer protection, Title 30, ch. 14, part 1.
Attorneys at law, Title 37, ch. 61.
Interspousal immunity abolished for intentional torts, 40-2-109.
Liability of minors, 41-1-201.
Enforcement of minor's rights, 41-1-202.
Immunity of medical examiner, 44-3-401.
Liability of law enforcement entity for assistance from another law enforcement entity, 44-11-102.
Criminal Procedure, Title 46.
Human Rights, Title 49.
Interpreters for the deaf in official proceedings, Title 49, ch. 4, part 5.
Immunity of landowner for mining operations, 82-2-306.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 622, 636, 637, 959, 964, 971, 1039.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1020, 1021, 1024, 1753 through 1760, 1764, 1792, 2192, 2196, 2625.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2503, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 88, 263, 318.
Final consideration, Trans. 2643, 2644.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 17. Due process of law. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

Cross-References
Detention, Art. II, sec. 23, Mont. Const.
Jury trial, Art. II, sec. 26, Mont. Const.
Eminent domain, Art. II, sec. 29, Mont. Const.
Ex post facto — obligation of contracts — irrevocable privileges, Art. II, sec. 31, Mont. Const.
Actual and constructive notice, 1-1-217.
Notice and opportunity to be heard in governmental operations, Title 2, ch. 3, part 1.
Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Courts and judicial officers generally, Title 3.
Tax liens, Title 15, ch. 17.
Eminent domain power of Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 23-1-102, 87-1-209, 87-1-703, 87-1-709.
Civil Procedure, Title 25.
Credit rating — property right, 31-3-103.
Eminent domain power of rural cooperatives, 35-18-106.
Eminent domain power of cemetery association, 35-20-104.
Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.
Child abuse, neglect, and dependency, Title 41, ch. 3.
Criminal Procedure, Title 46.
Human Rights, Title 49.
Persons with developmental disabilities, Title 53, ch. 20.
Mentally ill persons, Title 53, ch. 21.
Acquisition of property for highways, Title 60, ch. 4, parts 1 and 4; Title 60, ch. 5, part 1.
Eminent domain power of Department of Transportation for airport purposes, 67-2-301.
Eminent domain power of municipality for airport purposes, 67-10-102, 67-10-201, 67-10-205, 67-10-221.
Eminent domain power of airport authority, 67-11-201, 67-11-204, 67-11-231.
Eminent domain power under extraterritorial airports section, 67-11-401.
Eminent domain generally, Title 70, ch. 30, part 1; Title 70, ch. 31, part 3.
Escheated estates, Title 72, ch. 14.
Eminent domain for open-pit mining, 82-2-221.
Eminent domain to acquire underground natural reservoirs, 82-10-303.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 622, 637, 959, 964, 971, 1039.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1738, 1750, 1751, 1760.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2503, 2921.

Delegate proposals, Vol. I 312, 328.
Final consideration, Trans. 2644, 2645.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 18. State subject to suit. The state, counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities shall have no immunity from suit for injury to a person or property, except as may be specifically provided by law by a 2/3 vote of each house of the legislature.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 2, approved Nov. 5, 1974.

Cross-References

Liability exposure of governmental entities, Title 2, ch. 9, part 1.
Claims and actions, Title 2, ch. 9, part 3.
Local government liability, 7-1-4125.
Immunity of civil defense personnel, 10-3-111.
Immunity of medical examiner, 44-3-401.
Immunity for official duties under grazing district laws, 76-16-319.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 622, 637, 638, 959, 964, 967, 968, 971, 1039, 1040.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1760 through 1764.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2503, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 124.
Final consideration, Trans. 2645 through 2647.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 19. Habeas corpus. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall never be suspended.

Cross-References

Supreme Court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Seal of court required, 3-1-206.
Writ may be issued and served on any day, 3-1-302.
Jurisdiction to issue writ, 3-2-212, 3-5-302, 3-5-311.
Revocation of suspended or deferred sentence — petition for postconviction relief, 46-21-101, 46-22-101.
Habeas corpus generally, Title 46, ch. 22.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 622, 638, 639, 959, 964, 971, 1040.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1764.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2503, 2504, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2647, 2648.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 20. Initiation of proceedings. (1) Criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of any court inferior to the district court shall be prosecuted by complaint. All criminal actions in district court, except those on appeal, shall be prosecuted either by information, after examination and commitment by a magistrate or after leave granted by the court, or by indictment without such examination, commitment or leave.

(2) A grand jury shall consist of eleven persons, of whom eight must concur to find an indictment. A grand jury shall be drawn and summoned only at the discretion and order of the district judge.

Cross-References

The judiciary, Art. VII, Mont. Const.
The judiciary and courts, Title 3.
Montana Youth Court Act, Title 41, ch. 5.
Crimes, Title 45.
Criminal Procedure, Title 46.
Interpreters for the deaf in official proceedings, Title 49, ch. 4, part 5.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 622, 639, 959, 964, 968, 971, 1040.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1764 through 1766.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2504, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 89.
Final consideration, Trans. 2648, 2649.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 21. Bail. All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses, when the proof is evident or the presumption great.

Cross-References

Index of bonds given in criminal cases, 3-5-506.
Arrest and bail in civil actions, Title 27, ch. 16.
Attorney prohibited from becoming surety on bond, 37-61-419.
Bail — youth placed in detention or shelter care facility, 41-5-323.
Acceptance of bail by highway patrol officer, Title 44, ch. 1, part 11.
Crimes, Title 45.
Bail-jumping as criminal offense, 45-7-308.
Bail, Title 46, ch. 9.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 622, 639, 640, 959, 964, 968, 971, 1040, 1080, 1108.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — adoption schedule, Trans. 2997, 3001, 3002.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1771.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2504, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2649, 2650.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 22. Excessive sanctions. Excessive bail shall not be required, or excessive fines imposed, or cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Cross-References

Bail, Art. II, sec. 21, Mont. Const.; Title 46, ch. 9.
Attorney prohibited from becoming surety on bond, 37-61-419.
Crimes, Title 45.
Sentencing and judgment, Title 46, ch. 18.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 622, 640, 959, 964, 968, 971, 1040.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1771.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2504, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 77.
Final consideration, Trans. 2650, 2651.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1088.

Section 23. Detention. No person shall be imprisoned for the purpose of securing his testimony in any criminal proceeding longer than may be necessary in order to take his deposition. If he can give security for his appearance at the time of trial, he shall be discharged upon giving the same; if he cannot give security, his deposition shall be taken in the manner provided by law, and in the presence of the accused and his counsel, or without their presence, if they shall fail to attend the examination after reasonable notice of the time and place thereof.

Cross-References

Bail, Art. II, sec. 21, Mont. Const.; Title 46, ch. 9.
Excessive sanctions, Art. II, sec. 22, Mont. Const.
Attorney prohibited from becoming surety on bond, 37-61-419.
Crimes, Title 45.
Investigative subpoenas, Title 46, ch. 4, part 3.
Ensuring availability of witness or preservation of evidence after preliminary examination, information, or indictment, Title 46, ch. 11, part 6.
Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 46, ch. 15, part 1.
Depositions, Title 46, ch. 15, part 2.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 622, 623, 640, 959, 960, 965, 968, 971, 972, 1040.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1771 through 1776, 1781.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2504 through 2506, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2651, 2652.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 24. Rights of the accused. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person and by counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation; to meet the witnesses against him face to face; to have process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his behalf, and a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed, subject to the right of the state to have a change of venue for any of the causes for which the defendant may obtain the same.

Cross-References

Bail, Art. II, sec. 21, Mont. Const.; Title 46, ch. 9.
Excessive sanctions, Art. II, sec. 22, Mont. Const.
Detention, Art. II, sec. 23, Mont. Const.
Self-incrimination and double jeopardy, Art. II, sec. 25, Mont. Const.
Trial by jury, Art. II, sec. 26, Mont. Const.; 46-16-110.
Courts generally, Title 3, ch. 1.
Jury selection, Title 3, ch. 15.
Attorneys at law, Title 37, ch. 61.
Montana Youth Court Act, Title 41, ch. 5.
Crimes, Title 45.
Criminal procedure generally, Title 46.
Venue, Title 46, ch. 3.
Right to counsel, 46-7-102; Title 46, ch. 8; 46-18-223.
Charging offenses, 46-11-401.
Effect of former prosecutions, Title 46, ch. 11, part 5.
Plea bargain agreements, 46-12-204.
Change of venue, 46-13-203, 46-13-204.
Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 46, ch. 15, part 1.
Depositions, Title 46, ch. 15, part 2.
Discovery of witnesses — immunity, Title 46, ch. 15, part 3.
Interpreters for the deaf in official proceedings, Title 49, ch. 4, part 5.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 623, 640, 641, 960, 965, 968, 972, 1040.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1776.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2506, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2652, 2653.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 25. Self-incrimination and double jeopardy. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself in a criminal proceeding. No person shall be again put in jeopardy for the same offense previously tried in any jurisdiction.

Cross-References

Rights of accused, Art. II, sec. 24, Mont. Const.
Extent of self-incrimination protection in proceedings in aid of execution, 25-14-106.
Witness required to answer — exceptions, 26-2-302.
Extent of self-incrimination protection in investigations by Securities Commissioner, 30-10-304.
Extent of self-incrimination protection in unfair trade practices and consumer protection matters, 30-14-114, 30-14-221.
Double jeopardy protection in suspended Youth Court proceedings, 41-5-1501.
Crimes, Title 45.
Protection against self-incrimination under investigative subpoena, 46-4-305.
Effect of former prosecutions, Title 46, ch. 11, part 5.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 623, 641, 960, 965, 968, 972, 1040.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1751, 1776 through 1779.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2506, 2921.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 200, 251.
Final consideration, Trans. 2653, 2654.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 26. Trial by jury. The right of trial by jury is secured to all and shall remain inviolate. But upon default of appearance or by consent of the parties expressed in such manner as the law may provide, all cases may be tried without a jury or before fewer than the number of jurors provided by law. In all civil actions, two-thirds of the jury may render a verdict, and a verdict so rendered shall have the same force and effect as if all had concurred therein. In all criminal actions, the verdict shall be unanimous.

Cross-References

Jury to determine law and facts in cases of libel and slander, Art. II, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Rights of accused, Art. II, sec. 24, Mont. Const.
Mileage allowance for jurors, 2-18-503, 2-18-504.

State employees as jurors, 2-18-619.
Failure to attend or other acts of jurors as contempts, 3-1-501.
Power of District Court Judge to obtain jury, 3-5-311.
Record of jurors kept by Clerk of Court, 3-5-510.
Docket in Justice's Court — information on jurors, 3-10-501.
Juries and jurors, Title 3, ch. 15.
Issue of law determined by court — exception, 25-7-102.
Issue of fact determined by jury, 25-7-103.
Selection of jury — civil, Title 25, ch. 7, part 2.
Order and conduct of trial by jury — civil, Title 25, ch. 7, part 3.
Conduct of jury — civil, Title 25, ch. 7, part 4.
Jury verdict — civil, Title 25, ch. 7, part 5.
Irregularity of jury proceedings or jury misconduct as grounds for new trial, 25-11-102.
Jury trial in Justices' Courts, 25-31-803.
Jury to determine questions of fact, 26-1-202.
Jury to determine effect or value of evidence, 26-1-203.
Jury exclusive judge of credibility of witness, 26-1-302.
Instructions to jury on evaluation of evidence, 26-1-303.
Inference of jury, 26-1-501.
Presumption that jury passed on all issues, 26-1-602.
Jury trial in declaratory judgment action, 27-8-302.
Jury trial in mandamus proceeding, 27-26-303.
Jury trial in quo warranto proceeding, 27-28-207.
Jury trial in Youth Court proceedings, 41-5-1502.
Juror defined, 45-2-101.
Bribery of juror as criminal offense, 45-7-101.
Communication with juror as criminal offense, 45-7-102.
Failure to obey mandate, process, or notice relative to juries as criminal contempt, 45-7-309.
Selection of jury — criminal, Title 46, ch. 16, part 1.
Hearings on question of admissibility outside presence of jury, 46-16-201.
Conduct of jury — criminal, Title 46, ch. 16, part 5.
Jury trial in estate proceedings, 72-1-208.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 623, 641, 642, 960, 965, 968, 972, 1041.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1751, 1780 through 1792.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2506, 2507, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 89.
Final consideration, Trans. 2654, 2655.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 27. Imprisonment for debt. No person shall be imprisoned for debt except in the manner provided by law, upon refusal to deliver up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, or in cases of tort, where there is strong presumption of fraud.

Cross-References

Garnishment of earnings, 25-13-614.
Arrest for defrauding creditors, 27-16-102.
Fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.
Assignment for benefit of creditors — attachment of assignee, 31-2-220.
Nonsupport as criminal offense, 45-5-621.
Endangering welfare of children by nonsupport, 45-5-622.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 623, 642, 960, 965, 968, 972, 1041.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1792 through 1800.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2507, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2655, 2656.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 28. Criminal justice policy — rights of the convicted. (1) Laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of prevention, reformation, public safety, and restitution for victims.

(2) Full rights are restored by termination of state supervision for any offense against the state.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 33, approved Nov. 3, 1998.

Cross-References

Declaration of rights, Art. II, Mont. Const.

Individual serving sentence for felony in penal institution not qualified elector, Art. IV, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; 13-1-111.

Individual convicted of felony ineligible to hold public office until discharge, Art. IV, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

State institutions, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Certain former offenders not competent to act as juror, 3-15-303.

Gambling — qualifications for licensure, 23-5-176.

Incapacity of persons deprived of civil rights to contract, 28-2-201.

Effect of conviction of certain crimes on registration as securities dealer, 30-10-201.

Inclusion of criminal records on consumer report, 31-3-112, 31-3-126.

Conviction of crime against banking laws prohibiting election as bank director, 32-1-322.

Employment in bank of persons convicted of violation of banking laws — disclosure, 32-1-462.

Licensure of former criminal offenders in occupations and professions, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.

Effect of former conviction on granting of outfitter's license, 37-47-302, 37-47-341.

Prisoner entitled to consult with attorney, 37-61-418.

Crimes, Title 45.

Mistreating prisoners, 45-5-204.

Correctional policy of state, 46-18-101.

Effect of conviction — restoration of rights, 46-18-801.

Execution of criminal judgment, Title 46, ch. 19.

Probation, parole, and clemency, Title 46, ch. 23.

Human Rights, Title 49.

Corrections facilities, Title 53, ch. 30.

Effect of former conviction on registration and sale of out-of-state subdivision land, 76-4-1236.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.

Committee report, Vol. II 623, 642, 643, 960, 965, 968, 972, 1041, 1080, 1108.

Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.

Debate — adoption schedule, Trans. 2997.

Debate — committee report, Trans. 1076, 1800 through 1825, 1846 through 1848, 2305.

Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2507 through 2509, 2921.

Delegate proposals, Vol. I 128, 218, 317.

Final consideration, Trans. 2656 through 2658.

Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 29. Eminent domain. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation to the full extent of the loss having been first made to or paid into court for the owner. In the event of litigation, just compensation shall include necessary expenses of litigation to be awarded by the court when the private property owner prevails.

Cross-References

Due process, Art. II, sec. 17, Mont. Const.

Eminent domain power of Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 23-1-102, 87-1-209, 87-1-703, 87-1-709.

Eminent domain power of rural cooperatives, 35-18-106.

Eminent domain power of cemetery association, 35-20-104.

Prohibited transactions with foreign adversaries, 35-30-103.

Acquisition of property for highways, Title 60, ch. 4, parts 1 and 4; Title 60, ch. 5, part 1.

Eminent domain power of Department of Transportation for airport purposes, 67-2-301.

Eminent domain power of municipality for airport purposes, 67-10-102, 67-10-201, 67-10-205, 67-10-221.

Eminent domain power of airport authority, 67-11-201, 67-11-204, 67-11-231.

Eminent domain power under extraterritorial airports section, 67-11-231.

Eminent domain generally, Title 70, ch. 30.

Condemnation — necessary expenses of litigation, 70-30-305.

Eminent domain power for open-pit mining, 82-2-221.

Eminent domain power to acquire underground natural reservoirs, 82-10-303.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.

Committee report, Vol. II 623, 643, 644, 711, 960, 966, 972, 1041.

Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.

Debate — committee report, Trans. 1825 through 1828.

Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2509, 2921.

Delegate proposals, Vol. I 96, 177, 252, 308.

Final consideration, Trans. 2658, 2659.

Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 30. Treason and descent of estates. Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort; no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on his confession in open court; no person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the legislature; no conviction shall cause the loss of property to the relatives or heirs of the convicted. The estates of suicides shall descend or vest as in cases of natural death.

Cross-References

Importation of armed persons, Art. II, sec. 33, Mont. Const.
One witness insufficient to prove treason, 26-1-301.
Criminal syndicalism, 45-8-105.
Bringing armed persons into state, 45-8-106.
Evidence in trial for treason, 46-16-202.
Estates, Title 72.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 623, 624, 644, 960, 966, 968, 972, 1041.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1828, 1829.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2509, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2659, 2660.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 31. Ex post facto, obligation of contracts, and irrevocable privileges. No ex post facto law nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts, or making any irrevocable grant of special privileges, franchises, or immunities, shall be passed by the legislature.

Cross-References

Legislature not to pass laws retrospective in operation, Art. XIII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
When laws retroactive, 1-2-109.
Statutes subject to repeal, 1-2-110.
Effective date, 1-2-201.
Contracts, Title 28.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 624, 644, 961, 966, 968, 973, 1041.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1829, 2266 through 2268.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2509, 2510, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 207.
Final consideration, Trans. 2660, 2661.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 32. Civilian control of the military. The military shall always be in strict subordination to the civil power; no soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, except in the manner provided by law.

Cross-References

Militia, Title 10, ch. 1.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 624, 645, 961, 966, 968, 973, 1041.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1829 through 1832.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2510, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 78.
Final consideration, Trans. 2661, 2662.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 33. Importation of armed persons. No armed person or persons or armed body of men shall be brought into this state for the preservation of the peace, or the suppression of domestic violence, except upon the application of the legislature, or of the governor when the legislature cannot be convened.

Cross-References

Treason, Art. II, sec. 30, Mont. Const.
Civilian control of military, Art. II, sec. 32, Mont. Const.
Militia, Title 10, ch. 1.
Bringing armed persons into state as criminal offense, 45-8-106.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 624, 645, 961, 966, 968, 973, 1041, 1042.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1832.

Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2510, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2662, 2663.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 34. Unenumerated rights. The enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny, impair, or disparage others retained by the people.

Cross-References

Human Rights, Title 49.
Right to fish navigable waters, 87-2-305.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 624, 645, 961, 966, 968, 973, 1042.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1832.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2510, 2921.
Final consideration, Trans. 2663, 2664.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1089.

Section 35. Servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans. The people declare that Montana servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature.

Cross-References

Equal protection, Art. II, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Board of Veterans' Affairs, 2-15-1205.
Veterans' cemetery, 7-35-2205.
Militia, Title 10, ch. 1.
Veterans, Title 10, ch. 2.
Absentee voting of electors in United States service, 13-13-212.
Registration of electors in United States service, Title 13, ch. 21.
Property held in trust for incompetent veteran exempt from property taxation, 15-6-203.
Veterans' clubhouse exempt from property taxation, 15-6-203.
Certain disabled veterans' residences exempt from property taxation, 15-6-311.
Certain military pension or military retirement income not subject to income tax, 15-30-2120.
Beer license for veterans' organizations, 16-4-105, 16-4-301, 16-4-501.
All-beverages license for veterans' organizations, 16-4-201, 16-4-301, 16-4-501.
Pledge of portion of cigarette tax proceeds to pay veterans' nursing home bonds, 16-11-119.
Veterans' and pioneers' memorial building, Title 22, ch. 3, part 3.
Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.
Reemployment of veteran highway patrol officers, 44-1-404.
Veterans in hospitals or institutions exempt from fishing license requirements, 87-2-802.
Housing developments for veterans, 90-6-104.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2933, 2934.
Committee report, Vol. II 961, 966, 973, 1042.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 646.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1842, 1843, 2271, 2273.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2510, 2921.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 326.
Final consideration, Trans. 2664, 2665.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

ARTICLE III
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Section

1. Separation of powers.
2. Continuity of government.
3. Oath of office.
4. Initiative.
5. Referendum.
6. Elections.
7. Number of electors.
8. Prohibition.
9. Gambling.

Article Cross-References

Popular sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Self-government, Art. II, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Right of participation in government, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Constitutional revision, Art. XIV, Mont. Const.

Section 1. Separation of powers. The power of the government of this state is divided into three distinct branches—legislative, executive, and judicial. No person or persons charged with the exercise of power properly belonging to one branch shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted.

Cross-References

Legislative Branch, Art. V, Mont. Const.; Title 5.
Executive Branch, Art. VI, Mont. Const.
Judicial Branch, Art. VII, Mont. Const.
Departments and institutions, Art. XII, Mont. Const.
Government Structure and Administration, Title 2.
Executive Branch officers and agencies, Title 2, ch. 15.
The judiciary and courts, Title 3.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3009, 3010.
Committee report, Vol. II 815, 818, 1019, 1022, 1025, 1043.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 826.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1124, 2377, 2378, 2383, 2689, 2690 through 2695.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2820, 2828 through 2831, 2921, 2922, 2996.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 186.
Final consideration, Trans. 2842, 2843.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

Section 2. Continuity of government. The seat of government shall be in Helena, except during periods of emergency resulting from disasters or enemy attack. The legislature may enact laws to insure the continuity of government during a period of emergency without regard for other provisions of the constitution. They shall be effective only during the period of emergency that affects a particular office or governmental operation.

Cross-References

Executive Branch officers to reside at seat of government, Art. VI, sec. 1, Mont. Const.; 2-16-111.
Supreme Court to meet at seat of government, 3-2-303.
Legislature to meet at seat of government, 5-2-103.
The Continuity in Government Act, Title 10, ch. 3, part 6.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3009, 3010.
Committee report, Vol. II 815, 818, 819, 1019, 1022, 1025, 1043.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 826.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2695.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2820, 2921, 2922, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 278, 279.
Final consideration, Trans. 2843 through 2845.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

Section 3. Oath of office. Members of the legislature and all executive, ministerial and judicial officers, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before they enter upon the duties of their offices: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Montana, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity (so help me God)." No other oath, declaration, or test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust.

Cross-References

Oath of Constitutional Convention delegates, Art. XIV, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Teachers' Retirement Board members required to take oath, 2-15-1010.
Board of Water Well Contractors required to take oath, 2-15-3307.
Oaths — form — before whom — when, 2-16-211.
Oath of District Court Judges, 3-5-201.
Oath of Justices of the Peace, 3-10-202.
Municipal officers required to take oath, 7-1-4137.
Oath for municipal officers, 7-3-1259.
County Auditor required to take oath, 7-6-2404.
Community college district trustees required to take oath, 20-15-210, 20-15-222.
Assistant representative on Interstate Oil Compact Commission required to take oath, 82-11-304.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3009, 3010.

Committee report, Vol. II 815, 819, 1019, 1022, 1025, 1043.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 826.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2695.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2820, 2921, 2922, 2996.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 125.
Final consideration, Trans. 2845, 2846.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

Section 4. Initiative. (1) The people may enact laws by initiative on all matters except appropriations of money and local or special laws.

(2) Initiative petitions must contain the full text of the proposed measure, shall be signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts and the total number of signers must be at least five percent of the total qualified electors of the state. Petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state at least three months prior to the election at which the measure will be voted upon.

(3) The sufficiency of the initiative petition shall not be questioned after the election is held. *(See compiler's comments.)*

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 38, approved Nov. 5, 2002; amd. Const. Amend. No. 47, approved Nov. 3, 2020.

Compiler's Comments

2020 Amendment by Referendum: Constitutional Amendment No. 47, proposed by Ch. 217, L. 2019, and approved at the general election held November 3, 2020, in (2) near middle of first sentence substituted "one-third of the legislative representative districts" for "one-half of the counties". Amendment effective November 3, 2020.

Signature Distribution Invalid — Former Language Restored: In Montana PIRG v. Johnson, 361 F. Supp. 2d 1222 (D.C. Mont. 2005), the federal district court declared that the Montana constitutional and statutory provisions composing the county distribution requirement for signatures violated the 14th amendment of the United States constitution and permanently enjoined Montana from enforcing those provisions. In 51 A.G. Op. 2 (2005), the attorney general held that the judicial decision invalidating the county distribution requirements for signatures to qualify an initiative petition for the ballot, as approved in Constitutional Amendments No. 37 and 38 and enacted in their implementing legislation, restores the language of the constitution and statutes as they existed before the approval of the invalid amendments. The former language read: "(2) Initiative petitions must contain the full text of the proposed measure, shall be signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts and the total number of signers must be at least five percent of the total qualified electors of the state. Petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state at least three months prior to the election at which the measure will be voted upon."

Cross-References

Referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Elections, Art. III, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Number of electors, Art. III, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Inapplicable to constitutional revision, Art. III, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Signature of Governor not required, Art. VI, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Initiative and referendum in local government units, Art. XI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Initiative for Constitutional Convention, Art. XIV, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Constitutional amendment by initiative, Art. XIV, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Montana Recall Act, Title 2, ch. 16, part 6.
Initiative procedures, Title 13, ch. 27.
Verification of signatures by county officials — allocating voters following reapportionment, 13-27-303.
Statutory appropriations, Title 17, ch. 7, part 5.
Initiative or referendum required to approve construction of nuclear facility, 75-20-201.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3009, 3010.
Committee report, Vol. II 815, 816, 819, 820, 1019, 1020, 1022, 1023, 1025, 1043.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 826.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2689, 2695 through 2717, 2780, 2781, 2785, 2786.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2820 through 2825, 2921, 2922, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 257, 258, 277, 278.
Final consideration, Trans. 2846, 2847.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

Section 5. Referendum. (1) The people may approve or reject by referendum any act of the legislature except an appropriation of money. A referendum shall be held either upon order by the legislature or upon petition signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts. The total number of signers must be at least five percent of the qualified electors of the state. A referendum petition shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than six months after adjournment of the legislature which passed the act.

(2) An act referred to the people is in effect until suspended by petitions signed by at least 15 percent of the qualified electors in a majority of the legislative representative districts. If so suspended the act shall become operative only after it is approved at an election, the result of which has been determined and declared as provided by law.

Cross-References

Initiative, Art. III, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Elections, Art. III, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Number of qualified electors, Art. III, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Inapplicable to constitutional revision, Art. III, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Signature of Governor not required, Art. VI, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Initiative and referendum in local government units, Art. XI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Referendum to call Constitutional Convention, Art. XIV, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Constitutional amendment by referendum, Art. XIV, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Referendum procedures, Title 13, ch. 27.
Verification of signatures by county officials — allocating voters following reapportionment, 13-27-303.
Statutory appropriations, Title 17, ch. 7, part 5.
Initiative or referendum required to approve construction of nuclear facility, 75-20-201.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3009, 3010.
Committee report, Vol. II 816, 820, 1020, 1023, 1025, 1043, 1044.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 826.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2717, 2718.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2822, 2823, 2825, 2826, 2921, 2922, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 257, 258, 277, 278.
Final consideration, Trans. 2847, 2848.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

Section 6. Elections. The people shall vote on initiative and referendum measures at the general election unless the legislature orders a special election.

Cross-References

Initiative, Art. III, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Inapplicable to constitutional revision, Art. III, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Definition of general election for purposes of ballot issues, 13-1-101.
Times for holding general elections, 13-1-104.
Notice of special election, 13-1-108.
Initiative and referendum procedures, Title 13, ch. 27.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3009, 3010.
Committee report, Vol. II 816, 820, 1020, 1023, 1025, 1044.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 826.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2718.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2826, 2921, 2922, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 258, 277.
Final consideration, Trans. 2848, 2849.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

Section 7. Number of electors. (1) The number of qualified electors required in each legislative representative district and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

(2) For the purposes of a constitutional amendment, the number of qualified electors in each county and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

(3) For the purposes of a statutory initiative, the number of qualified electors required in each county and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election. *(See compiler's comments.)*

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 37, approved Nov. 5, 2002; amd. Const. Amend. No. 38, approved Nov. 5, 2002.

Compiler's Comments

Signature Distribution Invalid — Former Language Restored: In Montana PIRG v. Johnson, 361 F. Supp. 2d 1222 (D.C. Mont. 2005), the federal district court declared that the Montana constitutional and statutory provisions composing the county distribution requirement for signatures violated the 14th amendment of the United States constitution and permanently enjoined Montana from enforcing those provisions. In 51 A.G. Op. 2 (2005), the attorney general held that the judicial decision invalidating the county distribution requirements for signatures to qualify an initiative petition for the ballot, as approved in Constitutional Amendments No. 37 and 38 and enacted in their implementing legislation, restores the language of the constitution and statutes as they existed before the approval of the invalid amendments. The former language did not include subsection (2) or subsection (3).

Cross-References

Initiative, Art. III, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Districting and apportionment, Art. V, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Districting and Apportionment Commission, Title 5, ch. 1.
Times for holding general elections, 13-1-104.
Election records to be maintained by Secretary of State, 13-1-204.
Report of state canvass filed in Office of Secretary of State, 13-15-506.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3009, 3010.
Committee report, Vol. II 816, 821, 1020, 1023, 1025, 1044.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 826.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2718, 2719.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2826, 2827, 2921, 2922, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 258, 277.
Final consideration, Trans. 2849 through 2851.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

Section 8. Prohibition. The provisions of this Article do not apply to CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, Article XIV.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3009, 3010.
Committee report, Vol. II 816, 821, 1020, 1023 through 1025, 1044.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 826.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2720.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2827, 2921, 2922, 2996.
Final consideration, Trans. 2851, 2852.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

Section 9. Gambling. All forms of gambling, lotteries, and gift enterprises are prohibited unless authorized by acts of the legislature or by the people through initiative or referendum.

Cross-References

Initiative, Art. III, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Procedures for initiative and referendum, Title 13, ch. 27.
Parimutuel betting, Title 23, ch. 4, part 3.
Gambling, Title 23, ch. 5.
Video gambling machine control law, Title 23, ch. 5, part 6.
State lottery, Title 23, ch. 7.
Fights between animals unlawful, 45-8-211.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3009, 3010.
Committee report, Vol. II 816, 822, 825, 1020, 1024, 1025, 1044, 1080, 1081, 1108.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 826.
Debate — adoption schedule, Trans. 2997.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2728 through 2760.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2828, 2921, 2922, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 115, 121, 237, 247.
Final consideration, Trans. 2853, 2854.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1090.

ARTICLE IV
SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

Section

1. Ballot.
2. Qualified elector.
3. Elections.
4. Eligibility for public office.
5. Result of elections.
6. Privilege from arrest.
7. Ballot issues — challenges — elections.
8. Limitation on terms of office.

Article Cross-References

Popular sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Self-government, Art. II, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

General government, Art. III, Mont. Const.
Legislative Branch, Art. V, Mont. Const.
Executive Branch, Art. VI, Mont. Const.
Judicial Branch, Art. VII, Mont. Const.
Elections, Title 13.

Section 1. Ballot. All elections by the people shall be by secret ballot.

Cross-References

Elections by secret ballot, 13-1-102.
Secrecy required when aiding disabled elector, 13-13-119.
Voting systems to allow elector to vote in secrecy, 13-17-103.
Criminal provisions relating to secrecy, 13-35-201.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2934, 2935.
Committee report, Vol. I 336, 337, 341; Vol. II 845, 847, 1045.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 344.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 391, 422, 532.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1185, 1196, 1197, 2922.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 191.
Final consideration, Trans. 1861, 1862.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 2. Qualified elector. Any citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court.

Cross-References

Adult rights, Art. II, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Criminal justice policy — rights of convicted, Art. II, sec. 28, Mont. Const.
Rules for determining residence generally, 1-1-215.
Electors as part of political body, 1-1-401.
State residency not required to vote on question of creation of county water/sewer district, 7-13-2212.
Qualifications of voter, 13-1-111.
Registration generally, Title 13, ch. 2.
Change of residence to another county within 45 days of election, 13-2-514.
Qualification of elector in school elections, 20-20-301.
Definition of felony, 45-2-101.
Right to hold elected office, 49-1-202.
Rights and duties of elector, 49-1-203.
Persons with developmental disabilities, Title 53, ch. 20.
Mentally ill individuals, Title 53, ch. 21.
Persons under disability, guardianship, and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2934, 2935.
Committee report, Vol. I 336, 337, 339 through 341; Vol. II 845 through 847, 1045.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 344.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 392 through 400, 422, 532.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1185, 1196, 1197, 2922.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 191, 260, 330, 332.
Final consideration, Trans. 1862, 1863.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 3. Elections. The legislature shall provide by law the requirements for residence, registration, absentee voting, and administration of elections. It may provide for a system of poll booth registration, and shall insure the purity of elections and guard against abuses of the electoral process.

Cross-References

Elections, Title 13.
School elections, Title 20, ch. 20.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2934, 2935.
Committee report, Vol. I 336, 338, 341 through 343; Vol. II 845, 847, 1045.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 344.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 400 through 413, 422, 428 through 452, 467, 532, 533, 839.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1185, 1196, 1197, 2922.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 144, 191, 212, 221, 260, 289, 330, 332.
Final consideration, Trans. 1863, 1864.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 4. Eligibility for public office. Any qualified elector is eligible to any public office except as otherwise provided in this constitution. The legislature may provide additional qualifications but no person convicted of a felony shall be eligible to hold office until his final discharge from state supervision.

Cross-References

Criminal justice policy — rights of convicted, Art. II, sec. 28, Mont. Const.
Qualified elector, Art. IV, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Qualification for legislative offices, Art. V, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Disqualification of legislator for holding another office, Art. V, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Qualifications for Executive Branch offices, Art. VI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Qualification for judicial offices, Art. VII, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
General qualifications of persons seeking public office, 2-16-102.
Resignation of judge required prior to becoming candidate for another public office, 3-1-607, 3-1-608.
Qualifications for office of Justice of Supreme Court, 3-2-102.
Qualifications for office of District Court Judge, 3-5-202.
Qualifications for office of Municipal Court Judge, 3-6-202.
Qualifications for office of Justice of the Peace, 3-10-202.
Appointment to or candidacy of legislator for other office, 5-2-104.
General qualifications for county offices, 7-4-2201.
General qualifications for district or township offices, 7-4-2202.
Qualifications for County Attorney in certain counties, 7-4-2701.
Qualifications of County Surveyor, 7-4-2801.
General qualifications for municipal office, 7-4-4104.
Qualifications for office of Mayor, 7-4-4301.
Qualifications for office of City Council Member, 7-4-4401.
Qualifications for office of City Attorney, 7-4-4601.
Qualifications for office of County Auditor, 7-6-2403.
Qualifications for Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 20-3-101.
Qualifications for office of County Superintendent of Schools, 20-3-201.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2934, 2935.
Committee report, Vol. I 336, 338, 340, 341; Vol. II 621, 635, 845 through 847, 1045.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 344.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 414 through 417, 422, 528 through 532, 534, 678, 885, 1745 through 1749.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1185, 1186, 1196, 1197, 2922.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 97, 191, 192, 218.
Final consideration, Trans. 1864, 1865.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 5. Result of elections. In all elections held by the people, the person or persons receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Cross-References

Determination of winner, 13-1-103.
Canvassing, returns, and certificates, Title 13, ch. 15.
Recounts and tie votes, Title 13, ch. 16.
Determination of results of ballot issues, 13-27-503.
Exit polls prohibited, 13-35-211.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2934, 2935.
Committee report, Vol. I 336, 338, 339, 341; Vol. II 845 through 847, 1045.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 344.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 417 through 419, 422, 532.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1186, 1196, 1197, 2922.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 192.
Final consideration, Trans. 1865 through 1867.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 6. Privilege from arrest. A qualified elector is privileged from arrest at polling places and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace.

Cross-References

Privilege from arrest, 13-1-115.
Felony defined, 45-2-101.
Offenses against public order, Title 45, ch. 8.
Persons exempt from arrest, 46-6-102.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2934, 2935.
Committee report, Vol. I 339; Vol. II 845 through 847, 1045, 1091.

Debate — committee report, Trans. 418 through 422, 532, 533.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1186, 1187, 1196, 1197, 2922.
Final consideration, Trans. 1867, 1868.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 7. Ballot issues — challenges — elections. (1) An initiative or referendum that qualifies for the ballot under Article III or Article XIV shall be submitted to the qualified electors as provided in the Article under which the initiative or referendum qualified unless a new election is held pursuant to this section.

(2) A preelection challenge to the procedure by which an initiative or referendum qualified for the ballot or a postelection challenge to the manner in which the election was conducted shall be given priority by the courts.

(3) If the election on an initiative or referendum properly qualifying for the ballot is declared invalid because the election was improperly conducted, the secretary of state shall submit the issue to the qualified electors at the next regularly scheduled statewide election unless the legislature orders a special election.

History: En. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 21, approved Nov. 6, 1990.

Cross-References

Original jurisdiction — contest of ballot issue, 3-5-302.
Ballot issues — election procedure, Title 13, ch. 27, part 5.

Section 8. Limitation on terms of office. (1) The secretary of state or other authorized official shall not certify a candidate's nomination or election to, or print or cause to be printed on any ballot the name of a candidate for, one of the following offices if, at the end of the current term of that office, the candidate will have served in that office or had he not resigned or been recalled would have served in that office:

(a) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, or superintendent of public instruction;

(b) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as a state representative;

(c) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as a state senator;

(d) 6 or more years in any 12-year period as a member of the U.S. house of representatives; and

(e) 12 or more years in any 24-year period as a member of the U.S. senate.

(2) When computing time served for purposes of subsection (1), the provisions of subsection (1) do not apply to time served in terms that end during or prior to January 1993.

(3) Nothing contained herein shall preclude an otherwise qualified candidate from being certified as nominated or elected by virtue of write-in votes cast for said candidate.

History: En. Sec. 1, Const. Initiative No. 64, approved Nov. 3, 1992.

Compiler's Comments

Congressional Restrictions Invalid: In U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton, 514 US 779 (1995), the United States Supreme Court held that Art. I, sec. 5, clause 1, U.S. Const., prohibits states from imposing congressional qualifications additional to those specifically enumerated in its text. State imposition of term limits for congressional service would effect such a fundamental change in constitutional framework that it must be passed under the procedure set forth in Art. V, U.S. Const. Under this ruling, subsections (1)(d) and (1)(e) of this section are invalid.

Cross-References

Legislature — election and terms, Art. V, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Executive Branch — officers — terms, Art. VI, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Judiciary — terms and pay, Art. VII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

ARTICLE V
THE LEGISLATURE

Section

1. Power and structure.
2. Size.
3. Election and terms.
4. Qualifications.
5. Compensation.
6. Sessions.
7. Vacancies.
8. Immunity.
9. Disqualification.
10. Organization and procedure.

11. Bills.
12. Local and special legislation.
13. Impeachment.
14. Districting and apportionment.

Article Cross-References

Popular sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Self-government, Art. II, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Right of participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

Legislature — may establish drinking age, Art. II, sec. 14, Mont. Const.

Legislature — may provide for immunity from suit, Art. II, sec. 18, Mont. Const.

Legislature — not to pass ex post facto laws, laws impairing obligations of contracts, or irrevocable privileges, Art. II, sec. 31, Mont. Const.

Application of Legislature to import armed persons to preserve peace, Art. II, sec. 33, Mont. Const.

Legislature — special privileges to servicemen, servicewomen, or veterans, Art. II, sec. 35, Mont. Const.

Legislature as distinct branch of government, Art. III, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Legislature may enact laws to ensure continuity of government, Art. III, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Members of Legislature to take oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Legislative acts may be approved or rejected by referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Special election for initiative or referendum, Art. III, sec. 6, Mont. Const.

Gambling prohibited unless authorized by Legislature or the people, Art. III, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide election laws, Art. IV, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Governor to give Legislature information, submit legislation, and submit budget, Art. VI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

Veto power of Governor, Art. VI, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Legislative determination as to ability of Governor to discharge duties of office, Art. VI, sec. 14, Mont. Const.

Power of Legislature to disapprove rules of Supreme Court, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Legislature — may increase number of Justices on Supreme Court, Art. VII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Legislature — may provide for judicial review of administrative proceedings, Art. VII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

Legislature — may provide for additional Justices of the Peace, Art. VII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Legislature to divide state into judicial districts, Art. VII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.

Senate confirmation of Supreme Court appointee, Art. VII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

State debt prohibited except upon approval of Legislature, Art. VII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

Appropriations by Legislature not to exceed anticipated revenue, Art. VII, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

Legislature to limit debts of local government entities, Art. VII, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Legislature to create Judicial Standards Commission, Art. VII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

Power of Legislature to exempt property from taxation, Art. VIII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide tax appeal procedure, Art. VIII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

Legislature to ensure strict accountability of all revenue, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide unified investment program for public funds, Art. VIII, sec. 13, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide for administration and enforcement of duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide reclamation laws and resource indemnity trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide for administration, control, and regulation of water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Legislature to protect cultural resources, Art. IX, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

Legislative dedication of coal tax proceeds, Art. IX, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide public education, Art. X, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Legislature prohibited from aiding sectarian schools, Art. X, sec. 6, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide alternate forms of local government, Art. XI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide procedures permitting local government self-charters, Art. XI, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Legislature to extend initiative and referendum powers to electors of local governments, Art. XI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide for procedures for local government review, Art. XI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide for Department of Agriculture, Art. XII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Legislature may change maximum hours of workday, Art. XII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide for Department of Labor and Industry, Art. XII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Senate confirmation of Commissioner of Labor and Industry, Art. XII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Legislature may provide economic assistance to those who need aid of society, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Legislature prohibited from passing retrospective laws imposing new liability in respect to transactions or considerations already passed, Art. XIII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide protection and education for the people against harmful and unfair practices of corporations, individuals, or associations, Art. XIII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide for Consumer Counsel, Art. XIII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Legislature to provide code of ethics for legislators and all state and local officers and employees, Art. XIII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

Legislature to enact liberal homestead laws, Art. XIII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Legislature may submit referendum on question of calling Constitutional Convention, Art. XIV, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Legislature to call Constitutional Convention, Art. XIV, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Legislature to fix time and place of Constitutional Convention and provide funding, Art. XIV, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Legislature — may submit referendum on question of amendment to Constitution, Art. XIV, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

Meaning of law, Title 1, ch. 1, part 1.
Statutory construction, Title 1, ch. 2, part 1.
Effect of Legislature's actions, Title 1, ch. 2, part 2.
Commission on Uniform State Laws, Title 1, ch. 12.
Members of Legislature not to be interested in contracts made in their official capacity, 2-2-201.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References Relating to Unicameral Legislature

ARTICLE V — THE LEGISLATURE (UNICAMERAL)

Section 1. Power and structure.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 376, 381, 382; Vol. II 861, 867, 874, 1046.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 628, 747 through 760, 789, 853.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1568, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 109.
Final consideration, Trans. 1870 through 1872.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.

Section 2. Size.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 376, 382; Vol. II 861, 867, 874, 1046.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 690, 760 through 770, 789, 824, 825.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1568, 1596 through 1600, 1611 through 1614, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 109.
Final consideration, Trans. 1872, 1873.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.

Section 3. Election and terms.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 376, 383; Vol. II 861, 867, 874, 1046.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 770 through 775, 789.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1568, 1569, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 106, 110.
Final consideration, Trans. 1873, 1874.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.

Section 4. Qualifications.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 376, 383; Vol. II 861, 867, 874, 1046.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 545 through 572, 797 through 808, 1696.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1569, 1570, 1857, 1858, 2922 through 2925.
Final consideration, Trans. 1874, 1875.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.

Section 5. Compensation.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 376, 383, 384; Vol. II 861, 867, 874, 1046.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 572 through 579, 588, 589, 992, 993, 1084.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1570 through 1572, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 110, 280.
Final consideration, Trans. 1875 through 1878.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.

Section 6. Sessions.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 376, 384, 385; Vol. II 861, 867, 868, 874, 1046.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 579 through 593, 796, 797, 813 through 829.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1572, 1573, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 110.
Final consideration, Trans. 1877, 1878.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.

Section 7. Vacancies.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 376, 377, 385, 386; Vol. II 861, 862, 868, 1046.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 549, 550, 593, 594, 725 through 727.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1573, 2922 through 2925.
Final consideration, Trans. 1878, 1879.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.

Section 8. Immunity.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***

Committee report, Vol. I 377, 386; Vol. II 862, 868, 874, 1046.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 594, 595.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1573, 1858, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 110.
Final consideration, Trans. 1879, 1880.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.
Section 9. Disqualification.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 377, 386; Vol. II 862, 868, 874, 1046, 1047.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 595 through 599, 1617 through 1620.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1573 through 1582, 2922 through 2925.
Final consideration, Trans. 1880, 1881.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.
Section 10. Organization and procedure.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 377, 386, 388; Vol. II 862, 868, 874, 1047.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 599 through 631, 635 through 637, 789, 2791 through 2806.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1582, 1583, 1858, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 110, 111, 250.
Final consideration, Trans. 1881 through 1883, 2809 through 2811.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105.
Section 11. Bills.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 377, 378, 388, 389; Vol. II 862, 863, 868, 869, 874, 1047, 1048.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 637 through 673, 1535, 2015.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1583 through 1587, 1623, 1624, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 111.
Final consideration, Trans. 1883, 1884.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1105, 1106.
Section 12. Local and special legislation.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 378, 389, 390; Vol. II 863, 869, 874, 1048.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 674.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1587, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 111.
Final consideration, Trans. 1884, 1885.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1106.
Section 13. Impeachment.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 378, 379, 391, 392; Vol. II 863, 869, 870, 874, 1048.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 675 through 680, 789.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1587 through 1590, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 112.
Final consideration, Trans. 1885, 1886.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1106.
Section 14. Districting and apportionment.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. I 379, 381, 392, 393; Vol. II 863, 864, 870, 874, 875, 1048.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 680 through 696, 711 through 725, 789, 1568.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1590 through 1593, 1614, 1615, 1858, 2922 through 2925.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 109, 110.
Final consideration, Trans. 1886, 1887.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1106.
Section 15. Referendum of unicameral legislature.
Adoption, See ***ADOPTION SCHEDULE.***
Committee report, Vol. II 864 through 866, 870 through 873, 875, 1048 through 1051.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 785 through 789.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1593, 1594, 1627 through 1629, 1858, 1859, 2922 through 2925.
Final consideration, Trans. 1887, 1888, 2812 through 2814.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1106 through 1108.

Section 1. Power and structure. The legislative power is vested in a legislature consisting of a senate and a house of representatives. The people reserve to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum.

Cross-References

Popular sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Initiative, Art. III, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Composition and organization of Legislature, Title 5, ch. 2.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 395, 400; Vol. II 864, 871, 875, 876, 880, 885, 886, 1049, 1052, 1106.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 628, 775 through 779, 785, 789, 853.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1594, 1595, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 274.
Final consideration, Trans. 1891, 1892.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 2. Size. The size of the legislature shall be provided by law, but the senate shall not have more than 50 or fewer than 40 members and the house shall not have more than 100 or fewer than 80 members.

Cross-References

Districting and apportionment, Art. V, sec. 14, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 1.
Composition of Legislature, 5-2-101.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 395, 400, 401, 411; Vol. II 864, 871, 875, 876, 880, 885, 886, 1049, 1052, 1106.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 744, 779 through 785, 789, 815, 819, 821 through 826.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1595 through 1610, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 274.
Final consideration, Trans. 1892, 1893.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 3. Election and terms. A member of the house of representatives shall be elected for a term of two years and a member of the senate for a term of four years each to begin on a date provided by law. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years.

Cross-References

Limitation on terms of office, Art. IV, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Each house to judge election and qualifications of its members, Art. V, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Term of office for Senators and Representatives, 5-2-102.
Elections, Title 13.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 395, 401; Vol. II 864, 871, 875, 876, 880, 885, 886, 1049, 1052, 1107.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 785, 789, 1568, 1569.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1615, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 106, 274, 275.
Final consideration, Trans. 1893, 1894.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 4. Qualifications. A candidate for the legislature shall be a resident of the state for at least one year next preceding the general election. For six months next preceding the general election, he shall be a resident of the county if it contains one or more districts or of the district if it contains all or parts of more than one county.

Cross-References

Eligibility for public office, Art. IV, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Disqualification of legislators, Art. V, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Rules for determining residence generally, 1-1-215.
Qualifications for public office generally, 2-16-102.
Residence for election purposes, 13-1-112 through 13-1-114.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 395, 401, 412; Vol. II 876, 880, 886, 1052.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 545 through 572, 728, 797 through 808, 1569, 1570, 1696.

Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1615, 1616, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 274, 275.
Final consideration, Trans. 1894 through 1896.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 5. Compensation. Each member of the legislature shall receive compensation for his services and allowances provided by law. No legislature may fix its own compensation.

Cross-References
Travel, meals, and lodging, Title 2, ch. 18, part 5.
State group insurance, Title 2, ch. 18, parts 7 and 8.
Compensation and expenses of legislators, Title 5, ch. 2, part 3.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 395, 401, 402, 413; Vol. II 876, 880, 886, 1052.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 572 through 579, 588, 589, 728, 992, 993, 1084, 1572.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1616, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 275, 280.
Final consideration, Trans. 1896, 1897.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 6. Sessions. The legislature shall meet each odd-numbered year in regular session of not more than 90 legislative days. Any legislature may increase the limit on the length of any subsequent session. The legislature may be convened in special sessions by the governor or at the written request of a majority of the members.

History: Amd. Const. Initiative No. 1, approved Nov. 5, 1974.

Cross-References
Power of Governor to convene Legislature, Art. VI, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Convening of Legislature to determine ability of Governor to perform duties of office, Art. VI, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Convening of Legislature to fill vacancy in certain state offices, 2-16-504.
Convening of Legislature following enemy attack, 2-16-513.
Time and place of meeting, 5-2-103.
Call of special session, Title 5, ch. 3.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 395, 402, 414, 415; Vol. II 876, 877, 880, 881, 886, 887, 1052.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 579 through 593, 728, 796, 797, 813 through 829.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1616, 1702 through 1704, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 106, 275, 280.
Final consideration, Trans. 1897, 1898.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 7. Vacancies. A vacancy in the legislature shall be filled by special election for the unexpired term unless otherwise provided by law.

Cross-References
Vacancies in office of Senator or Representative, Title 5, ch. 2, part 4.
Vacancies prior to primary election, 13-10-326.
Vacancies after primary election and prior to general election, 13-10-327.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 395, 396, 402; Vol. II 877, 881, 887, 1052.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 549, 550, 593, 594, 725 through 728.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1616, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 275, 278.
Final consideration, Trans. 1898, 1899.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1091.

Section 8. Immunity. A member of the legislature is privileged from arrest during attendance at sessions of the legislature and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace. He shall not be questioned in any other place for any speech or debate in the legislature.

Cross-References
Immunity from suit for legislative acts and omissions, 2-9-111.
Felony defined, 45-2-101.

Offenses against public order, Title 45, ch. 8.
Senators and Representatives exempt from arrest under certain circumstances, 46-6-102.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 396, 402; Vol. II 877, 881, 887, 1052.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 594, 595, 728, 1573.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1616, 1617, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 275.
Final consideration, Trans. 1899, 1900.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1092.

Section 9. Disqualification. No member of the legislature shall, during the term for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under the state; and no member of congress, or other person holding an office (except notary public, or the militia) under the United States or this state, shall be a member of the legislature during his continuance in office.

Cross-References

Qualifications of legislator, Art. V, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Appointment of legislator or candidacy of legislator for other offices, 5-2-104.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 396, 402, 403; Vol. II 877, 881, 887, 1053.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 595 through 599, 728, 1573 through 1582, 1617 through 1620.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1617 through 1620, 1859, 1860, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 275.
Final consideration, Trans. 1900, 1901.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1092.

Section 10. Organization and procedure. (1) Each house shall judge the election and qualifications of its members. It may by law vest in the courts the power to try and determine contested elections. Each house shall choose its officers from among its members, keep a journal, and make rules for its proceedings. Each house may expel or punish a member for good cause shown with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its members.

(2) A majority of each house constitutes a quorum. A smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel attendance of absent members.

(3) The sessions of the legislature and of the committee of the whole, all committee meetings, and all hearings shall be open to the public.

(4) The legislature may establish a legislative council and other interim committees. The legislature shall establish a legislative post-audit committee which shall supervise post-auditing duties provided by law.

(5) Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than three days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting.

Cross-References

Right of participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Publication and updating of Montana Code Annotated, Title 1, ch. 11, part 3.
Organization of Legislature, Title 5, ch. 2.
Legislative procedures, Title 5, ch. 5.
Legislative Council, Title 5, ch. 11.
Legislative Finance Committee, Title 5, ch. 12, part 2.
Legislative Audit Committee, Title 5, ch. 13, part 2.
Legislative Consumer Committee, Title 5, ch. 15, part 1.
Environmental Quality Council, Title 5, ch. 16.
Quorum requirement suspended following enemy attack, 10-3-606.
Elections, Title 13.
Recounts and tie votes, Title 13, ch. 16.
Election and campaign practices — criminal provisions, Title 13, ch. 35.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 396, 403, 404; Vol. II 864, 865, 871, 875, 877, 881, 882, 885, 887, 1049, 1053, 1107.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 599 through 631, 635 through 637, 728, 730 through 735, 785, 789, 2791 through 2806.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1620, 1621, 2922 through 2925, 2996.

Delegate proposals, Vol. I 250, 275, 276, 303.
Final consideration, Trans. 1901, 1902, 2809 through 2812, 2815.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1092.

Section 11. Bills. (1) A law shall be passed by bill which shall not be so altered or amended on its passage through the legislature as to change its original purpose. No bill shall become law except by a vote of the majority of all members present and voting.

(2) Every vote of each member of the legislature on each substantive question in the legislature, in any committee, or in committee of the whole shall be recorded and made public. On final passage, the vote shall be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.

(3) Each bill, except general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws, shall contain only one subject, clearly expressed in its title. If any subject is embraced in any act and is not expressed in the title, only so much of the act not so expressed is void.

(4) A general appropriation bill shall contain only appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, for interest on the public debt, and for public schools. Every other appropriation shall be made by a separate bill, containing but one subject.

(5) No appropriation shall be made for religious, charitable, industrial, educational, or benevolent purposes to any private individual, private association, or private corporation not under control of the state.

(6) A law may be challenged on the ground of noncompliance with this section only within two years after its effective date.

Cross-References

Each house to keep journal, Art. V, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Aid to sectarian schools prohibited, Art. X, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Effective date of statutes, 1-2-201.
Effective date of joint resolutions, 1-2-202.
Secretary of State as custodian of actions and records of Legislature, 2-15-406.
Bills, Title 5, ch. 4.
Dissemination of laws and proceedings, Title 5, ch. 11, part 2.
Budgeting and appropriations, Title 17, ch. 7.
Conditions and limitations in appropriation acts, 17-8-103.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 382, 396, 397, 404 through 406; Vol. II 877, 878, 882, 887, 888, 1053, 1054.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 637 through 673, 728, 1535, 2015.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1621 through 1625, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 137, 222, 276.
Final consideration, Trans. 1902, 1903.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1092.

Section 12. Local and special legislation. The legislature shall not pass a special or local act when a general act is, or can be made, applicable.

Cross-References

Corporate charters granted, modified, or dissolved only pursuant to general law, Art. XIII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Public and private statutes, 1-1-106.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 397, 406; Vol. II 878, 882, 888, 1054.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 674, 728.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1625, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 156, 276.
Final consideration, Trans. 1903, 1904.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1092.

Section 13. Impeachment. (1) The governor, executive officers, heads of state departments, judicial officers, and such other officers as may be provided by law are subject to impeachment, and upon conviction shall be removed from office. Other proceedings for removal from public office for cause may be provided by law.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the manner, procedure, and causes for impeachment and may select the senate as tribunal.

(3) Impeachment shall be brought only by a two-thirds vote of the house. The tribunal hearing the charges shall convict only by a vote of two-thirds or more of its members.

(4) Conviction shall extend only to removal from office, but the party, whether convicted or acquitted, shall also be liable to prosecution according to law.

Cross-References

Code of ethics for government officers and employees, Art. XIII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Standards of conduct for government officers and employees, Title 2, ch. 2.
Montana Recall Act, Title 2, ch. 16, part 6.
Court of Impeachment as court of record, 3-1-101, 3-1-102.
Impeachment, Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.
Election and campaign practices — criminal provisions, Title 13, ch. 35.
Impeachment of Commissioner of Political Practices, 13-37-105.
Crimes, Title 45.
Power to impeach unaffected by official misconduct section, 45-7-401.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 397, 398, 406, 407; Vol. II 865, 871, 872, 875, 878, 883, 885, 888, 1050, 1054, 1107.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 675 through 680, 728, 735, 785, 789.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1625, 1626, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 276, 277.
Final consideration, Trans. 1904 through 1906.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1092.

Section 14. Districting and apportionment. (1) The state shall be divided into as many districts as there are members of the house, and each district shall elect one representative. Each senate district shall be composed of two adjoining house districts, and shall elect one senator. Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory. All districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable.

(2) In the legislative session following ratification of this constitution and thereafter in each session preceding each federal population census, a commission of five citizens, none of whom may be public officials, shall be selected to prepare a plan for redistricting and reapportioning the state into legislative districts and a plan for redistricting the state into congressional districts. The majority and minority leaders of each house shall each designate one commissioner. Within 20 days after their designation, the four commissioners shall select the fifth member, who shall serve as chairman of the commission. If the four members fail to select the fifth member within the time prescribed, a majority of the supreme court shall select him.

(3) Within 90 days after the official final decennial census figures are available, the commission shall file its final plan for congressional districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(4) The commission shall submit its plan for legislative districts to the legislature at the first regular session after its appointment or after the census figures are available. Within 30 days after submission, the legislature shall return the plan to the commission with its recommendations. Within 30 days thereafter, the commission shall file its final plan for legislative districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(5) Upon filing both plans, the commission is then dissolved.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 14, approved Nov. 6, 1984.

Cross-References

Congressional, senatorial, and representative districts, Title 5, ch. 1.
Change of precinct boundaries, 13-3-102.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 3010, 3011.
Committee report, Vol. I 398, 399, 407, 408; Vol. II 865, 866, 872, 873, 875, 878, 879, 883 through 885, 888, 889, 1050, 1051, 1054, 1055, 1107.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 680 through 696, 711 through 725, 735 through 747, 785, 789.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1626, 1627, 1860, 2922 through 2925, 2996.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 162, 163, 274, 278.
Final consideration, Trans. 1906, 1907.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1092, 1093.

ARTICLE VI
THE EXECUTIVE

Section
1. Officers.
2. Election.
3. Qualifications.
4. Duties.
5. Compensation.
6. Vacancy in office.
7. 20 departments.
8. Appointing power.
9. Budget and messages.
10. Veto power.
11. Special session.
12. Pardons.
13. Militia.
14. Succession.
15. Information for governor.

Article Cross-References

Right of participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Executive as distinct branch of government, Art. III, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Executive officers to take oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Impeachment of executive officers and heads of departments, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.
Executive officers as constituting Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Code of ethics for officers and employees, Art. XIII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Government structure and administration generally, Title 2.
Executive Branch officers and agencies, Title 2, ch. 15.
Public offices, Title 2, ch. 16.

Section 1. Officers. (1) The executive branch includes a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor.

(2) Each holds office for a term of four years which begins on the first Monday of January next succeeding election, and until a successor is elected and qualified.

(3) Each shall reside at the seat of government, there keep the public records of his office, and perform such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

Cross-References

Continuity of government, Art. III, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Limitation on terms of office, Art. IV, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Duties, Art. VI, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Immunity from suit for certain gubernatorial actions, 2-9-113.
State officers to be bonded, Title 2, ch. 9, part 6.
Governor, Title 2, ch. 15, part 2.
Lieutenant Governor, Title 2, ch. 15, part 3.
Secretary of State, Title 2, ch. 15, part 4.
Attorney General, Title 2, ch. 15, part 5.
State Auditor, Title 2, ch. 15, part 6.
Superintendent of Public Instruction, Title 2, ch. 15, part 7; Title 20, ch. 3, part 1.
Director of Department of Administration as ex officio State Treasurer, 2-15-1002.
Residence of officers, 2-16-111.
Montana Recall Act, Title 2, ch. 16, part 6.
Prohibited transactions with foreign adversaries — attorney general enforcement, 35-30-103.
Elected officers may discriminate on basis of political belief in hiring immediate staff and department heads, 49-2-308.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 432, 435, 441 through 444, 457, 462, 463; Vol. II 893, 898, 904, 906, 1056.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 843 through 878, 994, 1008, 1695.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1692, 1693, 1707 through 1718, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 180, 181, 228, 319.
Final consideration, Trans. 1922 through 1931.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1093.

Section 2. Election. (1) The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor shall be elected by the qualified electors at a general election provided by law.

(2) Each candidate for governor shall file jointly with a candidate for lieutenant governor in primary elections, or so otherwise comply with nomination procedures provided by law that the offices of governor and lieutenant governor are voted upon together in primary and general elections.

Cross-References

Limitation on terms of office, Art. IV, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Term of office, Art. VI, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Elections, Title 13.
Joint declaration of nomination for offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, 13-10-201.
Vacancy in Governor or Lieutenant Governor candidacy, 13-10-328.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 432, 435, 444, 445, 457, 463, 464; Vol. II 893, 898, 904, 906, 1056.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 878 through 882.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1693, 1708 through 1718, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 180, 181, 228, 229, 319.
Final consideration, Trans. 1923, 1931, 1932.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1093.

Section 3. Qualifications. (1) No person shall be eligible to the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, or auditor unless he is 25 years of age or older at the time of his election. In addition, each shall be a citizen of the United States who has resided within the state two years next preceding his election.

(2) Any person with the foregoing qualifications is eligible to the office of attorney general if an attorney in good standing admitted to practice law in Montana who has engaged in the active practice thereof for at least five years before election.

(3) The superintendent of public instruction shall have such educational qualifications as are provided by law.

Cross-References

Eligibility for public office generally, Art. IV, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Supreme Court jurisdiction — admission to and conduct of bar, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; Title 37, ch. 61, part 1.
Rules for determining residence generally, 1-1-215.
Qualifications for public office generally, 2-16-102.
Residence for election purposes, 13-1-112 through 13-1-114.
Qualifications for Superintendent of Public Instruction, 20-3-101.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 435, 436, 445, 457, 458, 464; Vol. II 893, 898, 899, 904, 906, 1056.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 883 through 899, 978 through 987.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1693 through 1698, 1708 through 1714, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 180, 228, 319, 320.
Final consideration, Trans. 1932, 1933, 1945, 1946.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1093.

Section 4. Duties. (1) The executive power is vested in the governor who shall see that the laws are faithfully executed. He shall have such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall perform the duties provided by law and those delegated to him by the governor. No power specifically vested in the governor by this constitution may be delegated to the lieutenant governor.

(3) The secretary of state shall maintain official records of the executive branch and of the acts of the legislature, as provided by law. He shall keep the great seal of the state of Montana and perform any other duties provided by law.

(4) The attorney general is the legal officer of the state and shall have the duties and powers provided by law.

(5) The superintendent of public instruction and the auditor shall have such duties as are provided by law.

Cross-References

Application of Governor for military intervention, Art. II, sec. 33, Mont. Const.
Governor to fill vacancies in certain elected offices, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Governor to appoint department heads and other officers, Art. VI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Governor to submit budget and legislation to Legislature, Art. VI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Governor — may convene Legislature, Art. VI, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Governor — may grant reprieves and pardons, Art. VI, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Governor as head of militia, Art. VI, sec. 13, Mont. Const.
Governor may require information — Executive Branch officers, Art. VI, sec. 15, Mont. Const.
Governor to nominate replacement for vacancy on Supreme Court or District Court, Art. VII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Elected officers — constitute Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Governor ex officio member of State Board of Education, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Governor to appoint Commissioner of Labor and Industry, Art. XII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Policymaking and administrative powers of Governor, 2-15-103.
Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.
Powers and duties of Lieutenant Governor, 2-15-302.
Duties of Secretary of State, 2-15-401.
Duties of Attorney General, 2-15-501.
State Auditor, Title 2, ch. 15, part 6.
Governor — general authority in disasters and emergencies, 10-3-104.
Duties of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Title 20, ch. 3, part 1.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 435, 436, 441 through 447, 458, 465; Vol. II 893, 894, 899, 904, 907, 1056, 1057.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 867, 899 through 907, 911 through 927, 995 through 1007.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1698, 1699, 1708 through 1714, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 181, 229, 320.
Final consideration, Trans. 1933, 1934, 2807, 2809.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1093.

Section 5. Compensation. (1) Officers of the executive branch shall receive salaries provided by law.

(2) During his term, no elected officer of the executive branch may hold another public office or receive compensation for services from any other governmental agency. He may be a candidate for any public office during his term.

Cross-References

Salaries, Title 2, ch. 16, part 4.
Travel, meals, and lodging expenses of elected officials, Title 2, ch. 18, part 5.
Group insurance for state officers, Title 2, ch. 18, parts 7 and 8.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 432, 435, 436, 441, 447, 458; Vol. II 894, 899, 904, 907, 1057.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 927 through 929, 991 through 994.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1699, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 181, 229, 320.
Final consideration, Trans. 1934, 1935.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1094.

Section 6. Vacancy in office. (1) If the office of lieutenant governor becomes vacant by his succession to the office of governor, or by his death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office for the remainder of the term. If both the elected governor and the elected lieutenant governor become unable to serve in the office of governor, succession to the respective offices shall be as provided by law for the period until the next general election. Then, a governor and lieutenant governor shall be elected to fill the remainder of the original term.

(2) If the office of secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, or superintendent of public instruction becomes vacant by death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office until the next general election and until a successor is elected and qualified. The person elected to fill a vacancy shall hold the office until the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

Cross-References

Succession, Art. VI, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.
Vacancy and succession, Title 2, ch. 16, part 5.

Vacancy prior to primary election, 13-10-326.
Vacancy after primary and prior to general election, 13-10-327.
Vacancy in candidacy of Governor or Lieutenant Governor, 13-10-328.
Vacancy in Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 20-3-102.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 436, 447, 448, 458, 465, 466; Vol. II 894, 899, 900, 904, 907, 1057.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 929 through 933, 939 through 944.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1700, 1708 through 1714, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 181, 182, 233, 322, 323.
Final consideration, Trans. 1935, 1936.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1094.

Section 7. 20 departments. All executive and administrative offices, boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies and instrumentalities of the executive branch (except for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor) and their respective functions, powers, and duties, shall be allocated by law among not more than 20 principal departments so as to provide an orderly arrangement in the administrative organization of state government. Temporary commissions may be established by law and need not be allocated within a department.

Cross-References

Right of participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Appointing power, Art. VI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for Department of Agriculture, Art. XII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for Department of Labor and Industry, Art. XII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Public participation in governmental operations, Title 2, ch. 3.
Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Biennial reports of state agencies, 2-7-103.
Legislative review of need for and performance of agencies, Title 2, ch. 8, part 1.
Executive Branch officers and agencies, Title 2, ch. 15.
Termination of state agencies, Title 2, ch. 19, part 1.
Governor may discriminate on basis of political belief in naming department heads, 49-2-308.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 436, 437, 448, 449, 458, 459; Vol. II 894, 895, 900, 904, 907, 908, 1057.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 933 through 939, 1364.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1700, 1708 through 1714, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 182, 183, 229 through 231, 321.
Final consideration, Trans. 1936, 1937.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1094.

Section 8. Appointing power. (1) The departments provided for in section 7 shall be under the supervision of the governor. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by law, each department shall be headed by a single executive appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the senate to hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(2) The governor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the senate, all officers provided for in this constitution or by law whose appointment or election is not otherwise provided for. They shall hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in any such office when the legislature is not in session, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to discharge the duties thereof until the office is filled by appointment and confirmation.

(4) A person not confirmed by the senate for an office shall not, except at its request, be nominated again for that office at the same session, or be appointed to that office when the legislature is not in session.

Cross-References

State Board of Education, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Commissioner as head of Department of Labor and Industry, Art. XII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Appointment and qualification of department heads, 2-15-111.
Duties and powers of department heads, 2-15-112.
Right of department head to records and access, 2-15-113.
Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.

Procedure for confirmation of appointees by Senate, Title 5, ch. 5, part 3.
Governor may discriminate on political basis in appointment of department heads and immediate staff, 49-2-308.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 437, 449, 450, 459; Vol. II 895, 900, 901, 904, 908, 1057, 1058, 1080, 1107.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 944 through 947.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1700, 1701, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 183, 230, 231, 321.
Final consideration, Trans. 1938, 1939.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1094.

Section 9. Budget and messages. The governor shall at the beginning of each legislative session, and may at other times, give the legislature information and recommend measures he considers necessary. The governor shall submit to the legislature at a time fixed by law, a budget for the ensuing fiscal period setting forth in detail for all operating funds the proposed expenditures and estimated revenue of the state.

Cross-References

Revenue and finance, Art. VIII, Mont. Const.
Judicial budget, 3-1-702.
Submission of budget amendments to Legislative Finance Committee, 5-12-401.
Budgeting and appropriations, Title 17, ch. 7.
Limits on expenditures, 17-8-103.
Penalty for violation of expenditure limits, 17-8-104.
Cost for employer's contribution to retirement system to be included in agency budget, 19-3-317.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 432, 433, 437, 450, 459; Vol. II 895, 901, 908, 1058.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 842, 947, 948.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1701, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 183, 231, 321.
Final consideration, Trans. 1939, 1940.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1094.

Section 10. Veto power. (1) Each bill passed by the legislature, except bills proposing amendments to the Montana constitution, bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States constitution, resolutions, and initiative and referendum measures, shall be submitted to the governor for his signature. If he does not sign or veto the bill within 10 days after its delivery to him, it shall become law. The governor shall return a vetoed bill to the legislature with a statement of his reasons therefor.

(2) The governor may return any bill to the legislature with his recommendation for amendment. If the legislature passes the bill in accordance with the governor's recommendation, it shall again return the bill to the governor for his reconsideration. The governor shall not return a bill for amendment a second time.

(3) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it shall become law.

(4) (a) If the legislature is not in session when the governor vetoes a bill approved by two-thirds of the members present, he shall return the bill with his reasons therefor to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall poll the members of the legislature by mail and shall send each member a copy of the governor's veto message. If two-thirds or more of the members of each house vote to override the veto, the bill shall become law.

(b) The legislature may reconvene as provided by law to reconsider any bill vetoed by the governor when the legislature is not in session.

(5) The governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in such instances the procedure shall be the same as upon veto of an entire bill.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 12, approved Nov. 2, 1982; amd. Const. Amend. No. 26, approved Nov. 8, 1994.

Cross-References

Initiative, Art. III, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Bills, Art. V, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Constitutional amendment by referendum, Art. XIV, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Constitutional amendment by initiative, Art. XIV, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

Effective date of statutes, 1-2-201.
Immunity from suit for gubernatorial actions on bills, 2-9-113.
Action by Governor on bills, Title 5, ch. 4, part 3.
Governor's veto — return when Legislature not in session, 5-4-306.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 355, 363, 378, 390, 391, 397, 406, 433, 437, 438, 446, 450 through 452, 459, 460; Vol. II 816, 821, 895, 896, 901, 904, 908, 909, 1058, 1059.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 522, 674, 675, 728, 747, 842, 948 through 958, 2719, 2720.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1701, 1702, 1720 through 1723, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 111, 112, 116, 117, 120, 183, 184, 211, 231, 232, 258, 277, 321 through 323.
Final consideration, Trans. 1940, 1941.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1094, 1095.

Section 11. Special session. Whenever the governor considers it in the public interest, he may convene the legislature.

Cross-References

Legislative sessions, Art. V, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Convening of Legislature by Acting Governor following enemy attack, 2-16-513.
Meeting at request of Governor, 5-2-103.
Special sessions, Title 5, ch. 3, part 1.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 376, 384, 385, 395, 402, 414, 415, 438, 452, 460; Vol. II 861, 868, 874, 876, 877, 881, 887, 901, 902, 904, 909, 1046, 1052, 1059, 1091, 1105.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 579 through 593, 728, 817, 826, 956, 958 through 961.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1702 through 1704, 1723, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 106, 110, 183, 231, 275, 321.
Final consideration, Trans. 1941, 1942.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1095.

Section 12. Pardons. The governor may grant reprieves, commutations and pardons, restore citizenship, and suspend and remit fines and forfeitures subject to procedures provided by law.

Cross-References

Secretary of State to keep register of applications for pardons or commutations, 2-15-401.
Executive clemency defined, 46-23-103.
Executive clemency, Title 46, ch. 23, part 3.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 438, 452, 453, 460, 466; Vol. II 896, 902, 904, 905, 909, 1059.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 962 through 964.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1704, 1705, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 183, 231, 321.
Final consideration, Trans. 1942, 1943.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1095.

Section 13. Militia. (1) The governor is commander-in-chief of the militia forces of the state, except when they are in the actual service of the United States. He may call out any part or all of the forces to aid in the execution of the laws, suppress insurrection, repel invasion, or protect life and property in natural disasters.

(2) The militia forces shall consist of all able-bodied citizens of the state except those exempted by law.

Cross-References

Right to bear arms, Art. II, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Civilian control of military, Art. II, sec. 32, Mont. Const.
Importation of armed persons, Art. II, sec. 33, Mont. Const.
Servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations, Art. II, sec. 35, Mont. Const.
Militia, Title 10, ch. 1.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 438, 453, 454, 460; Vol. II 896, 902, 905, 909, 1059.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 964 through 966.

Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1705, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 182, 229, 295, 296, 320.
Final consideration, Trans. 1943, 1944.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1095.

Section 14. Succession. (1) If the governor-elect is disqualified or dies, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying for the office shall become governor for the full term. If the governor-elect fails to assume office for any other reason, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying as such shall serve as acting governor until the governor-elect is able to assume office, or until the office becomes vacant.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor when so requested in writing by the governor. After the governor has been absent from the state for more than 45 consecutive days, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor.

(3) He shall serve as acting governor when the governor is so disabled as to be unable to communicate to the lieutenant governor the fact of his inability to perform the duties of his office. The lieutenant governor shall continue to serve as acting governor until the governor is able to resume the duties of his office.

(4) Whenever, at any other time, the lieutenant governor and attorney general transmit to the legislature their written declaration that the governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the legislature shall convene to determine whether he is able to do so.

(5) If the legislature, within 21 days after convening, determines by two-thirds vote of its members that the governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor. Thereafter, when the governor transmits to the legislature his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office within 15 days, unless the legislature determines otherwise by two-thirds vote of its members. If the legislature so determines, the lieutenant governor shall continue to serve as acting governor.

(6) If the office of governor becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, or disqualification, the lieutenant governor shall become governor for the remainder of the term, except as provided in this constitution.

(7) Additional succession to fill vacancies shall be provided by law.

(8) When there is a vacancy in the office of governor, the successor shall be the governor. The acting governor shall have the powers and duties of the office of governor only for the period during which he serves.

Cross-References
Vacancy in other state elected offices, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.
Vacancy and succession, Title 2, ch. 16, part 5.
Vacancy following enemy attack, 10-3-602.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. I 438, 439, 454 through 456, 460, 461; Vol. II 896, 897, 902, 903, 905, 909, 910, 1059, 1060.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 467.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 880, 887, 930, 931, 940 through 944, 966 through 973.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1705 through 1708, 1718 through 1723, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 181, 182, 232, 233, 278, 322, 323.
Final consideration, Trans. 1944, 1945.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1095.

Section 15. Information for governor. (1) The governor may require information in writing, under oath when required, from the officers of the executive branch upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

(2) He may require information in writing, under oath, from all officers and managers of state institutions.

(3) He may appoint a committee to investigate and report to him upon the condition of any executive office or state institution.

Cross-References
Policymaking authority and administrative powers of Governor, 2-15-103.
Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.
Responsibility of warden and superintendents of institutions, 53-1-204.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2935, 2936.
Committee report, Vol. II 897, 903, 905, 910, 1060.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 973, 974.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1707, 2925, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 229.
Final consideration, Trans. 1945 through 1947.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1095.

ARTICLE VII
THE JUDICIARY

Section
1. Judicial power.
2. Supreme court jurisdiction.
3. Supreme court organization.
4. District court jurisdiction.
5. Justices of the peace.
6. Judicial districts.
7. Terms and pay.
8. Selection.
9. Qualifications.
10. Forfeiture of judicial position.
11. Removal and discipline.

Article Cross-References

Administration of justice, Art. II, sec. 16, Mont. Const.
Initiation of criminal proceedings, Art. II, sec. 20, Mont. Const.
Bail, Art. II, sec. 21, Mont. Const.
Detention, Art. II, sec. 23, Mont. Const.
Rights of accused, Art. II, sec. 24, Mont. Const.
Protection against self-incrimination and double jeopardy, Art. II, sec. 25, Mont. Const.
Trial by jury, Art. II, sec. 26, Mont. Const.
Imprisonment for debt, Art. II, sec. 27, Mont. Const.
Criminal justice policy — rights of convicted, Art. II, sec. 28, Mont. Const.
Determination of just compensation in eminent domain proceedings, Art. II, sec. 29, Mont. Const.
The judiciary as separate branch of government, Art. III, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Judicial officers to take oath, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Power of courts to determine contested legislative elections, Art. V, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Senate as impeachment tribunal, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.
Supreme Court to select fifth member of Commission to Redistrict and Reapportion under certain circumstances, Art. V, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide independent procedure for tax appeals, Art. VIII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Judicial officers and judicial record defined, 1-1-202.
Immunity from suit for judicial acts and omissions, 2-9-112.
Public officers, Title 2, ch. 16.
Montana Recall Act, Title 2, ch. 16, part 6.
The judiciary and courts generally, Title 3.
Judicial officers subject to impeachment, 5-5-401.
Civil Procedure, Title 25.
Evidence, Title 26.
Remedies, Title 27.
Workers' Compensation Judge, Title 39, ch. 71, part 29.
Montana Youth Court Act, Title 41, ch. 5.
Crimes, Title 45.
Criminal Procedure, Title 46.
Interpreters for deaf persons in official proceedings, Title 49, ch. 4, part 5.

Section 1. Judicial power. The judicial power of the state is vested in one supreme court, district courts, justice courts, and such other courts as may be provided by law.

Cross-References

Senate as impeachment tribunal, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.
Supreme Court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Supreme Court organization, Art. VII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
District Court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Justices of the Peace, Art. VII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Judicial districts, Art. VII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Role of judge in statutory construction, 1-2-101.

Role of judge in construing instruments, 1-4-101.
Courts and judges may administer oaths, 1-6-101.
Workers' Compensation Court, 2-15-1707; Title 39, ch. 71, part 29.
Supreme Court, Title 3, ch. 2.
District Courts, Title 3, ch. 5.
Municipal Courts, Title 3, ch. 6.
Water Courts, Title 3, ch. 7.
Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10.
City Courts, Title 3, ch. 11.
Small Claims Court, Title 3, ch. 12.
Youth Court, Title 41, ch. 5, part 2.
Judges, attorneys, and court officers privileged from arrest while attending court and while going to and returning from court, 46-6-102.
Adjudication of water rights, Title 85, ch. 2, part 2.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 486, 489, 493, 510, 514, 515; Vol. II 913, 917, 922, 924, 1061.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 528 through 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1019, 1035, 1036, 1074.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2176, 2177, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 84, 140, 205, 206.
Final consideration, Trans. 2434, 2435.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1096.

Section 2. Supreme court jurisdiction. (1) The supreme court has appellate jurisdiction and may issue, hear, and determine writs appropriate thereto. It has original jurisdiction to issue, hear, and determine writs of habeas corpus and such other writs as may be provided by law.

(2) It has general supervisory control over all other courts.

(3) It may make rules governing appellate procedure, practice and procedure for all other courts, admission to the bar and the conduct of its members. Rules of procedure shall be subject to disapproval by the legislature in either of the two sessions following promulgation.

(4) Supreme court process shall extend to all parts of the state.

Cross-References

Supreme Court to appoint fifth member of Commission to Redistrict and Reapportion under certain circumstances, Art. V, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Judicial officer defined, 1-1-202.
Rules of Supreme Court to be published in Montana Code Annotated, 1-11-204.
Appeal of District Court judgment reviewing administrative decision, 2-4-711.
Supreme Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 2, part 2.
Adoption of Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, Title 3, ch. 2, part 7.
Chief Justice to preside at impeachment of Governor or Lieutenant Governor, 5-5-404.
Supreme Court Justices to receive copies of session laws, 5-11-203.
Inquiry of Supreme Court into emergency declaration of Governor, 10-3-506.
Appeal of conviction under Montana Alcoholic Beverage Code, 16-6-202.
Justices as board of trustees of law library, 22-1-502.
Chief Justice to approve director of Medical Legal Panel, 27-6-201.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Writ of certiorari, Title 27, ch. 25.
Writ of mandate, Title 27, ch. 26.
Writ of prohibition, Title 27, ch. 27.
Quo warranto, Title 27, ch. 28.
Attorneys, Title 37, ch. 61.
Direct appeal of decisions of Workers' Compensation Judge, 39-71-2904.
Solemnization of marriage by court of record, 40-1-301.
Effect of appeal on dissolution decree, 40-4-108.
Rules relating to accuracy of criminal justice information — consent of Supreme Court, 44-5-213.
Criminal appeals, Title 46, ch. 20.
Appeal of zoning decision of Board of Adjustment to court of record, 76-2-327, 76-2-328.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 486, 493, 494, 510, 515, 516, 518; Vol. II 913, 917, 922, 924, 1061.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 528 through 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1036 through 1044, 1071 through 1073, 1162, 1163.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2177 through 2179, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 84, 85, 112, 140, 205, 304.
Final consideration, Trans. 2435, 2436.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1096.

Section 3. Supreme court organization. (1) The supreme court consists of one chief justice and four justices, but the legislature may increase the number of justices from four to six. A majority shall join in and pronounce decisions, which must be in writing.

(2) A district judge shall be substituted for the chief justice or a justice in the event of disqualification or disability, and the opinion of the district judge sitting with the supreme court shall have the same effect as an opinion of a justice.

Cross-References

Salaries, 2-16-403.
Restrictions on judicial officers, Title 3, ch. 1, part 6.
Supreme Court rules on disqualification and substitution of judges, 3-1-803, 3-1-804.
Number of associate justices, 3-2-101.
Concurrence of majority required, 3-2-211.
Powers of individual justices, 3-2-212.
Form and reporting of decisions, Title 3, ch. 2, part 6.
Expenses of District Court Judge sitting on Supreme Court, 3-5-213.
Judicial officers liable to impeachment, 5-5-401.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 486, 487, 494, 495, 510, 516; Vol. II 913, 917, 922, 924, 1061.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 528 through 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1044 through 1049, 1063 through 1071.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2179, 2180, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 84, 85, 140, 141, 205.
Final consideration, Trans. 2436 through 2438.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1096.

Section 4. District court jurisdiction. (1) The district court has original jurisdiction in all criminal cases amounting to felony and all civil matters and cases at law and in equity. It may issue all writs appropriate to its jurisdiction. It shall have the power of naturalization and such additional jurisdiction as may be delegated by the laws of the United States or the state of Montana. Its process shall extend to all parts of the state.

(2) The district court shall hear appeals from inferior courts as trials anew unless otherwise provided by law. The legislature may provide for direct review by the district court of decisions of administrative agencies.

(3) Other courts may have jurisdiction of criminal cases not amounting to felony and such jurisdiction concurrent with that of the district court as may be provided by law.

Cross-References

Judicial officer defined, 1-1-202.
Judicial review of contested cases under Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.
Immunity from suit for judicial acts and omissions, 2-9-112.
Jurisdiction over claims against governmental entities, 2-9-311.
Court approval of attorney fees in tort action against governmental entity, 2-9-314.
Appeal of refusal to accept recall petition, 2-16-615.
Courts and judicial officers generally, Title 3, ch. 1.
Restrictions on judicial officers, Title 3, ch. 1, part 6.
District Courts, Title 3, ch. 5.
State assumption of certain District Court expenses, 3-5-901, 3-5-902.
Concurrent jurisdiction with Municipal Courts, 3-6-103.
District Court Judge as Water Judge, 3-7-201.
Jurisdiction of Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10, part 3.
Removal of action from District Court to Small Claims Court, 3-10-1004.
Jurisdiction of City Courts, Title 3, ch. 11, part 1.
Small Claims Courts, Title 3, ch. 12.
Jury trials in District Courts, Title 3, ch. 15, part 5.
Judicial district for new county, 7-2-2228.
Transfer of court files and actions when new county created, 7-2-2255; Title 7, ch. 2, part 24.
County tax levy for District Court expenses, 7-6-2511.
Filling of vacancy in Board of County Commissioners following enemy attack, 10-3-603.
Judicial review of decisions of Montana Tax Appeal Board, 15-2-303.
Interlocutory adjudication of issue pending before Montana Tax Appeal Board, 15-2-305.
Jurisdiction as to violation of Montana Alcoholic Beverage Code, 16-6-201, 41-5-203.
Appeal of conviction under Montana Alcoholic Beverage Code, 16-6-202.
Appeal of revocation or suspension of licenses under The Montana Cigarette Sales Act, 16-11-144, 16-11-150.
Jurisdiction with regard to state contracts, 18-1-401.
Excuse regarding compulsory school attendance, 20-5-102.
Appeal of decision of school trustees to sell property, 20-6-604.

Civil Procedure, Title 25.

Appeals to Supreme Court, Title 25, ch. 12.

Evidence, Title 26.

Remedies, Title 27.

Judicial review of orders of Securities Commissioner, 30-10-308.

Powers and duties with respect to assignments for benefit of creditors, Title 31, ch. 2, part 2.

Appeal of disallowance of claim by Department of Administration in dissolution, closing, or liquidation of bank, 32-1-532.

Appeal of decision of Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks regarding outfitter or guide license, 37-47-343.

Collection of unpaid wages, 39-3-212.

Solemnization of marriage by court, 40-1-301.

Powers and duties with respect to termination of marriage, parenting, and support, Title 40, ch. 4.

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, Title 40, ch. 5, part 10.

Uniform Parentage Act, Title 40, ch. 6, part 1.

Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, Title 40, ch. 7.

Child abuse, neglect, and dependency, Title 41, ch. 3.

Youth Court, Title 41, ch. 5, part 2.

Appeal of disciplinary action against highway patrol officer, 44-1-901, 44-1-902.

Crimes, Title 45.

Criminal Procedure, Title 46.

District Court jurisdiction — public offenses not otherwise provided for, 46-2-201.

Interpreters for the deaf in official proceedings, Title 49, ch. 4, part 5.

Appeal of decision of Department of Transportation regarding aircraft regulation and licensing, 67-3-104.

Landlord and tenant laws, Title 70, ch. 24 through 26.

Forcible entry and detainer — unlawful detainer, Title 70, ch. 27.

Quiet title actions, Title 70, ch. 28.

Action for partition of real property, 70-29-101.

Jurisdiction in eminent domain proceedings, 70-30-202.

Estates, Trusts, and Fiduciary Relationships, Title 72.

Judicial review of air quality orders, 75-2-411.

Judicial review of decision regarding water pollution, 75-5-621, 75-5-641.

Judicial review of decision regarding public water supplies, 75-6-111.

Appointment of members of streambed alteration project arbitration panel, 75-7-114.

Judicial review of decision of Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks under The Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975, 75-7-121.

Appeal of decisions under Montana Major Facility Siting Act, 75-20-219, 75-20-410.

Appeal of zoning decision, 76-2-110.

Appeal of decision of county board of zoning adjustment to court of record, 76-2-327, 76-2-328.

Appeal of order of Department of Natural Resources and Conservation regarding floodways and flood plains, 76-5-209.

Collection of amount due for wildland fire protection, 76-13-211.

Appeal of decision of Board of Adjustment of variance concerning conservation district land use regulations, 76-15-726, 76-15-727.

Appeal of disputed appraisal for hail loss, 80-2-243.

Appeal of decision of Department of Livestock regarding certificate of livestock market, 81-8-255.

Appeal of decision of Department of Livestock regarding dairy products licensing, 81-22-203.

Appeal of assessment of damages for land taken for mining right-of-way, 82-2-209 through 82-2-212.

Appeal of irrigation district decrees, Title 85, ch. 7, part 22.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.

Committee report, Vol. I 487, 488, 492, 496, 497, 499, 510, 511, 516 through 518; Vol. II 913, 914, 917, 918, 922, 924, 925, 1061, 1062.

Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 528 through 530.

Debate — committee report, Trans. 1016, 1019, 1020, 1029, 1030, 1036, 1041, 1049 through 1057, 1073 through 1080.

Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2179 through 2181, 2926.

Delegate proposals, Vol. I 85 through 89, 112, 140, 141, 291.

Final consideration, Trans. 2438, 2439.

Text as adopted, Vol. II 1096.

Section 5. Justices of the peace. (1) There shall be elected in each county at least one justice of the peace with qualifications, training, and monthly compensation provided by law. There shall be provided such facilities that they may perform their duties in dignified surroundings.

(2) Justice courts shall have such original jurisdiction as may be provided by law. They shall not have trial jurisdiction in any criminal case designated a felony except as examining courts.

(3) The legislature may provide for additional justices of the peace in each county.

Cross-References

Judicial officer defined, 1-1-202.
Court may administer oaths, 1-6-101.
Immunity from suit for judicial acts or omissions, 2-9-112.
Courts and judicial offices generally, Title 3, ch. 1.
Restrictions on judicial officers, Title 3, ch. 1, part 6.
Training and certification of judges of courts of limited jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 1, part 15.
Appellate jurisdiction of District Courts, 3-5-303, 46-17-311.
Concurrent jurisdiction with Municipal Courts, 3-6-103.
Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10.
Concurrent jurisdiction with City Courts, 3-11-102.
Justice of the Peace as acting City Judge, 3-11-205.
Number of jurors in Justices' Courts, 3-15-107.
Jury trials in courts of limited jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 15, part 7.
Justice of the Peace as county officer, 7-4-2203.
Jurisdiction as to violations of Montana Alcoholic Beverage Code, 16-6-201, 41-5-203.
Procedure in Justices' Courts, Title 25, ch. 31.
Appeal to District Courts from Justices' Courts, Title 25, ch. 33.
Small claims procedure in Justices' Courts, Title 25, ch. 35.
Confession of judgment in Justice's Court, 27-9-101.
Arrest in civil actions in Justice's Court, Title 27, ch. 16, part 10.
Solemnization of marriage by Justice of the Peace, 40-1-301.
Concurrent jurisdiction with Youth Court, 41-5-203.
Procedure following arrest by highway patrol officer, 44-1-1101, 44-1-1102.
Crimes, Title 45.
Criminal Procedure, Title 46.
Jurisdiction of Justices' Courts in criminal matters, 46-2-202.
Proceedings in Justice's Court in criminal matters, Title 46, ch. 17.
Collection of amount due for wildland fire protection, 76-13-211.
Jurisdiction for livestock violations, 81-4-307, 81-8-217.
Jurisdiction for violation of aerial hunting law, 81-7-511.
Distribution of fish and game laws to Justices of the Peace, 87-1-405.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 489, 491, 500, 501, 505; Vol. II 914, 918, 922, 925, 1062.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1012, 1014, 1019, 1020, 1022, 1029, 1030, 1083, 1084, 1120, 1121, 1140 through 1147, 1154 through 1179 [referred to as section 16].
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2181, 2182, 2184, 2185, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 152, 205, 206.
Final consideration, Trans. 2439, 2440.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1096.

Section 6. Judicial districts. (1) The legislature shall divide the state into judicial districts and provide for the number of judges in each district. Each district shall be formed of compact territory and be bounded by county lines.

(2) The legislature may change the number and boundaries of judicial districts and the number of judges in each district, but no change in boundaries or the number of districts or judges therein shall work a removal of any judge from office during the term for which he was elected or appointed.

(3) The chief justice may, upon request of the district judge, assign district judges and other judges for temporary service from one district to another, and from one county to another.

Cross-References

Supreme Court rules on disqualification and substitution of judges, 3-1-803, 3-1-804.
Definition of districts and assignment of judges, Title 3, ch. 5, part 1.
Expenses of judge when out of district, 3-5-213.
Expenses of judge when not in county of residence, 3-5-215.
Statewide jurisdiction of District Court Judges, 3-5-312.
Terms and location of District Courts, Title 3, ch. 5, part 4.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 488, 497, 511, 518, 519; Vol. II 914, 918, 922, 925, 1062.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 528 through 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1080 through 1083 [referred to as section 5], 1110, 1163.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2182, 2183, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 86, 88, 141, 163, 206.
Final consideration, Trans. 2440, 2441.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1096.

Section 7. Terms and pay. (1) All justices and judges shall be paid as provided by law, but salaries shall not be diminished during terms of office.

(2) Terms of office shall be eight years for supreme court justices, six years for district court judges, four years for justices of the peace, and as provided by law for other judges.

Cross-References

Term, salary, and expenses of Workers' Compensation Judge, 2-15-1707.
Salaries and expenses of Supreme Court Justices, 2-16-403, 3-2-104.
Group insurance, Title 2, ch. 18, parts 7 and 8.
Restrictions on judicial officers, Title 3, ch. 1, part 6.
Term of office for Supreme Court Justices, 3-2-101, 3-2-103.
Term of office for District Court Judge, 3-5-203, 3-5-204.
Salaries and expenses of District Court Judge, 3-5-211 through 3-5-215.
Term of office for Municipal Court Judge, 3-6-201.
Salaries and expenses of Municipal Court Judge, 3-6-203.
Term of office of Water Judges, 3-7-202.
Term of office of Justices of the Peace, 3-10-205.
Salaries and expenses of Justices of the Peace, 3-10-207 through 3-10-209.
Term of office of City Judges, 3-11-201.
Salaries and expenses of City Judges, 3-11-202.
County levy for District Court expenses, 7-6-2511.
Judges' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 5.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 487 through 489, 491, 495, 500, 504, 511, 519; Vol. II 914, 919, 922, 925, 1062.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 528 through 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1020, 1067, 1083, 1084, 1086, 1087, 1089, 1090, 1093, 1097, 1101, 1107, 1110, 1114 through 1119 [referred to as section 6], 1150 through 1154.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2183 through 2185, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 86 through 88, 206, 225.
Final consideration, Trans. 2441, 2442.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1096.

Section 8. Selection. (1) Supreme court justices and district court judges shall be elected by the qualified electors as provided by law.

(2) For any vacancy in the office of supreme court justice or district court judge, the governor shall appoint a replacement from nominees selected in the manner provided by law. If the governor fails to appoint within thirty days after receipt of nominees, the chief justice or acting chief justice shall make the appointment from the same nominees within thirty days of the governor's failure to appoint. Appointments made under this subsection shall be subject to confirmation by the senate, as provided by law. If the appointee is not confirmed, the office shall be vacant and a replacement shall be made under the procedures provided for in this section. The appointee shall serve until the election for the office as provided by law and until a successor is elected and qualified. The person elected or retained at the election shall serve until the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was elected. No appointee, whether confirmed or unconfirmed, shall serve past the term of his predecessor without standing for election.

(3) If an incumbent files for election and there is no election contest for the office, the name of the incumbent shall nevertheless be placed on the general election ballot to allow the voters of the state or district to approve or reject him. If an incumbent is rejected, the vacancy in the office for which the election was held shall be filled as provided in subsection (2).

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 22, approved Nov. 3, 1992.

Cross-References

Judicial vacancies, Title 3, ch. 1, part 9.
Judicial Standards Commission, Title 3, ch. 1, part 11.
Vacancy in office of Justice of the Peace, 3-10-206.
Procedure regarding Senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments, Title 5, ch. 5, part 3.
Judicial elections, Title 13, ch. 14, part 2.
Political parties prohibited from endorsing, contributing to, or making expenditure to support or oppose judicial candidate, 13-35-231.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 511, 512, 519 through 521; Vol. II 914, 915, 919, 922, 925, 926, 1062, 1063, 1080, 1107.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 528 through 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1012 through 1014, 1016, 1017, 1022 through 1028, 1030 through 1033, 1069, 1081, 1082, 1084 through 1114 [referred to as section 7], 1116, 1838.

Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2185, 2186, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 87, 141, 206.
Final consideration, Trans. 2442, 2443.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1096, 1097.

Section 9. Qualifications. (1) A citizen of the United States who has resided in the state two years immediately before taking office is eligible to the office of supreme court justice or district court judge if admitted to the practice of law in Montana for at least five years prior to the date of appointment or election. Qualifications and methods of selection of judges of other courts shall be provided by law.

(2) No supreme court justice or district court judge shall solicit or receive compensation in any form whatever on account of his office, except salary and actual necessary travel expense.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, no supreme court justice or district court judge shall practice law during his term of office, engage in any other employment for which salary or fee is paid, or hold office in a political party.

(4) Supreme court justices shall reside within the state. During his term of office, a district court judge shall reside in the district and a justice of the peace shall reside in the county in which he is elected or appointed. The residency requirement for every other judge must be provided by law.

History: **Amd. Const. Amend. No. 19, approved Nov. 8, 1988.**

Cross-References

Supreme Court to make rules regarding admission to bar, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Compensation, Art. VII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Forfeiture of judicial position, Art. VII, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Removal and discipline, Art. VII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Rules for determining residence generally, 1-1-215.
Qualifications of Workers' Compensation Judge, 2-15-1707.
Qualifications for public officers generally, 2-16-102.
Montana Recall Act, Title 2, ch. 16, part 6.
Restrictions on judicial officers, Title 3, ch. 1, part 6.
Qualifications for Supreme Court Justices, 3-2-102.
Qualifications for District Court Judges, 3-5-202.
Qualifications for Municipal Judges, 3-6-202.
Qualifications for Water Judges, 3-7-201.
Qualifications for Justices of the Peace, 3-10-202, 3-10-203.
Qualifications for City Judges, 3-11-202, 3-11-204.
Residence for election purposes, 13-1-112 through 13-1-114.
Attorneys at law, Title 37, ch. 61.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 484, 487 through 489, 491, 492, 495, 496, 498 through 500, 504 through 506, 512, 521 through 523; Vol. II 915, 919, 920, 922, 926, 1063.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 528 through 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1012, 1020, 1118 through 1121 [referred to as section 8], 1154, 1179, 1746, 1747.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2186, 2187, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 86 through 88, 141, 206.
Final consideration, Trans. 2443 through 2445.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1097.

Section 10. Forfeiture of judicial position. Any holder of a judicial position forfeits that position by either filing for an elective public office other than a judicial position or absenting himself from the state for more than 60 consecutive days.

Cross-References

Selection upon vacancy, Art. VII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Judicial officers defined, 1-1-202.
Absence of certain officers from state for more than 60 consecutive days prohibited, 2-16-112.
Vacancy created by change of residence or absence from state, 2-16-501.
Supreme Court Justices or District Court Judge to resign prior to filing as candidate for another office, 3-1-607, 3-1-608.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 492, 507, 512, 522; Vol. II 915, 920, 926, 1063.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 528 through 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1119 through 1121, 1148 through 1150 [referred to as section 8].
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2186, 2187, 2926.

Final consideration, Trans. 2445, 2446.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1097.

Section 11. Removal and discipline. (1) The legislature shall create a judicial standards commission consisting of five persons and provide for the appointment thereto of two district judges, one attorney, and two citizens who are neither judges nor attorneys.

(2) The commission shall investigate complaints, and make rules implementing this section. It may subpoena witnesses and documents.

(3) Upon recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may:

(a) Retire any justice or judge for disability that seriously interferes with the performance of his duties and is or may become permanent; or

(b) Censure, suspend, or remove any justice or judge for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent failure to perform his duties, violation of canons of judicial ethics adopted by the supreme court of the state of Montana, or habitual intemperance.

(4) The proceedings of the commission are confidential except as provided by statute.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 9, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Const. Amend. No. 13, approved Nov. 6, 1984.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Code of ethics, Title 2, ch. 2, part 1.
Restrictions on judicial officers, Title 3, ch. 1, part 6.
Judicial Standards Commission, Title 3, ch. 1, part 11.
Official misconduct, 45-7-401.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2936, 2937.
Committee report, Vol. I 489, 490, 501 through 503, 512, 513, 518, 519, 523, 524; Vol. II 915, 916, 920 through 923, 926, 927, 1063, 1064.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1029, 1122 through 1127 [referred to as section 10], 1163.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2187, 2188, 2926.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 87, 88, 141, 205, 206.
Final consideration, Trans. 2446, 2447.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1097.

ARTICLE VIII
REVENUE AND FINANCE

Section
1. Tax purposes.
2. Tax power inalienable.
3. Property tax administration.
4. Equal valuation.
5. Property tax exemptions.
6. Highway revenue non-diversion.
7. Tax appeals.
8. State debt.
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10. Local government debt.
11. Use of loan proceeds.
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13. Investment of public funds and public retirement system and state compensation insurance fund assets.
14. Prohibited payments.
15. Public retirement system assets.
16. Limitation on sales tax or use tax rates.
17. Prohibition on real property transfer taxes.

Article Cross-References

Appropriations not subject to initiative, Art. III, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Appropriations not subject to referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Governor to submit budget to Legislature, Art. VI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Resource indemnity trust, Art. IX, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Coal severance tax trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Public school fund, Art. X, sec. 2, 3, and 5, Mont. Const.
University funds, Art. X, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Director of Department of Administration as ex officio State Treasurer, 2-15-1002.

Montana Tax Appeal Board created, 2-15-1015.
Department of Revenue, Title 2, ch. 15, part 13.
Advisory council for Multistate Tax Compact, 2-15-1311.
The Legislative Finance Act, Title 5, ch. 12.
The Legislative Audit Act, Title 5, ch. 13.
Revenue Interim Committee, 5-5-227.
Local government financial administration and taxation, Title 7, ch. 6.
Local government debt management, Title 7, ch. 7.
Special improvement districts, Title 7, ch. 12.
Utility services, Title 7, ch. 13.
Taxation, Title 15.
Alcohol and tobacco taxation, Title 16.
State Finance, Title 17.
Authority of Department of Administration to issue bonds, 18-2-105.
School finance, Title 20, ch. 9.
Community college finance, Title 20, ch. 15, parts 3 and 4.
University System finance, Title 20, ch. 25, part 4.
Issuance of bonds for university purposes, 20-25-402.
Issuance of bonds for public library purposes, 22-1-304.
Issuance of bonds for airport purposes, 67-10-402, 67-11-303.
Inheritance and estate tax, Title 72, ch. 16.
Issuance of solid waste management systems bonds, 75-10-112.
Issuance of bonds under Open-Space Land and Voluntary Conservation Easement Act, 76-6-109.
Issuance of conservation district bonds, 76-15-506.
Renewable resource grant and loan program, Title 85, ch. 1, part 6.
Issuance of bonds for industrial development projects, Title 90, ch. 5.
Issuance of bonds under Housing Act of 1975, 90-6-111 through 90-6-126.

Section 1. Tax purposes. Taxes shall be levied by general laws for public purposes.

Cross-References
Local and special legislation, Art. V, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Taxation, Title 15.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 579, 580, 582 through 584, 588, 945, 947, 951, 1065.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 582.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376 through 1378.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2217, 2926 through 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 95, 101, 114, 132, 306.
Final consideration, Trans. 2461, 2462.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1097.

Section 2. Tax power inalienable. The power to tax shall never be surrendered, suspended, or contracted away.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 579 through 581, 584, 588, 945, 947, 950, 951, 1065.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 581.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376, 1378, 1379, 1425, 1501.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2217, 2926 through 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 306.
Final consideration, Trans. 2462, 2463.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1097.

Section 3. Property tax administration. The state shall appraise, assess, and equalize the valuation of all property which is to be taxed in the manner provided by law.

Cross-References
Department of Revenue, Title 2, ch. 15, part 13.
Tax administration, Title 15, ch. 1.
Property subject to taxation, Title 15, ch. 6.
Appraisal of property, Title 15, ch. 7.
Assessment procedure, Title 15, ch. 8.
Equalization, Title 15, ch. 9.
Centrally assessed property, Title 15, ch. 23.
Special property tax applications, Title 15, ch. 24.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 579, 580, 582, 584, 588 through 591, 594, 945, 947, 950, 951, 1065.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 582.

Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376, 1379 through 1409, 1501, 2286, 2289.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2217 through 2219, 2926 through 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 129, 167, 174, 264, 265, 306, 307.
Final consideration, Trans. 2463, 2464.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1097.

Section 4. Equal valuation. All taxing jurisdictions shall use the assessed valuation of property established by the state.

Cross-References

Assessment made by Department of Revenue basis for municipal taxation, 7-6-4409.
Appraisal of property, Title 15, ch. 7.
Assessment procedures, Title 15, ch. 8.
Equalization, Title 15, ch. 9.
Centrally assessed property, Title 15, ch. 23.
Special property tax applications, Title 15, ch. 24.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 581, 582, 584, 589, 590, 945, 947, 950, 951, 1065.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 581.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376, 1409, 1410, 2153, 2289.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2218, 2219, 2926 through 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 2464, 2465.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1097.

Section 5. Property tax exemptions. (1) The legislature may exempt from taxation:

(a) Property of the United States, the state, counties, cities, towns, school districts, municipal corporations, and public libraries, but any private interest in such property may be taxed separately.

(b) Institutions of purely public charity, hospitals and places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, places for actual religious worship, and property used exclusively for educational purposes.

(c) Any other classes of property.

(2) The legislature may authorize creation of special improvement districts for capital improvements and the maintenance thereof. It may authorize the assessment of charges for such improvements and maintenance against tax exempt property directly benefited thereby.

Cross-References

Improvement districts, Title 7, ch. 12.
Pedestrian malls and offstreet parking facilities, Title 7, ch. 14, part 47.
Tax-exempt property, Title 15, ch. 6, part 2.
Water conservation and flood control projects, Title 76, ch. 5, part 11.
Irrigation districts — taxes and assessments, Title 85, ch. 7, part 21.
Drainage districts — taxes and assessments, Title 85, ch. 8, part 6.
Conservancy districts — finance, Title 85, ch. 9, part 6.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 580, 584, 588, 590, 591, 599 through 601, 945, 947, 948, 950, 951, 1065.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 580.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376, 1379, 1410 through 1427, 1497, 1556 through 1558.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2219, 2220, 2926 through 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 99, 167, 306, 326.
Final consideration, Trans. 2465, 2466.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1097, 1098.

Section 6. Highway revenue non-diversion. (1) Revenue from gross vehicle weight fees and excise and license taxes (except general sales and use taxes) on gasoline, fuel, and other energy sources used to propel vehicles on public highways shall be used as authorized by the legislature, after deduction of statutory refunds and adjustments, solely for:

(a) Payment of obligations incurred for construction, reconstruction, repair, operation, and maintenance of public highways, streets, roads, and bridges.

(b) Payment of county, city, and town obligations on streets, roads, and bridges.

(c) Enforcement of highway safety, driver education, tourist promotion, and administrative collection costs.

(2) Such revenue may be appropriated for other purposes by a three-fifths vote of the members of each house of the legislature.

Cross-References

Department of Transportation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 25.
Gasoline and vehicle fuels taxes, Title 15, ch. 70.
Aviation fuel tax allocated to Department of Transportation for aviation purposes, 15-70-403, 67-1-301.
General obligation highway bonds — pledge of portion of gasoline tax revenue, Title 17, ch. 5, part 5.
Highway revenue bonds — pledge of revenue, Title 17, ch. 5, part 9.
Highways, Title 60.
Distribution and apportionment of highway funds, Title 60, ch. 3.
Motor Vehicles, Title 61.
Gross vehicle weight licensing requirements, Title 61, ch. 10, part 2.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 580, 584, 585, 591, 592, 945, 946, 948, 950 through 952, 1065, 1066, 1080, 1107.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 580.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376, 1389, 1390, 1428 through 1466, 1469 through 1489, 1501, 2689, 2695, 2701 through 2717, 2779 through 2789.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2220 through 2243, 2926 through 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 187, 188.
Final consideration, Trans. 2466, 2467, 2779 through 2789, 2814, 2815.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1098.

Section 7. Tax appeals. The legislature shall provide independent appeal procedures for taxpayer grievances about appraisals, assessments, equalization, and taxes. The legislature shall include a review procedure at the local government unit level.

Cross-References

Montana Tax Appeal Board, 2-15-1015; Title 15, ch. 2.
County Tax Appeal Board, Title 15, ch. 15.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 582, 585, 589, 592 through 594, 946, 948, 950, 952, 1066.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 582.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376, 1382, 1390, 1392, 1393, 1397, 1402, 1407, 1489, 1490.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2243, 2926 through 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 2467, 2468.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1098.

Section 8. State debt. No state debt shall be created unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the members of each house of the legislature or a majority of the electors voting thereon. No state debt shall be created to cover deficits incurred because appropriations exceeded anticipated revenue.

Cross-References

Legislature, Art. V, Mont. Const.; Title 5.
Balanced budget, Art. VIII, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Local government debt, Art. VIII, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Use of loan proceeds, Art. VIII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Effect of 1972 Montana Constitution on existing public bonds, debts, and contracts, Transition Schedule, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
State Finance, Title 17.
Public bond issues, Title 17, ch. 5.
Statutory appropriations, Title 17, ch. 7, part 5.
Public Contracts, Title 18.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 583, 585, 586, 594, 946, 948, 950, 952, 1066, 1080, 1107.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 583.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376, 1490 through 1508.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2243, 2244, 2926 through 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 2468, 2469.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1098.

Section 9. Balanced budget. Appropriations by the legislature shall not exceed anticipated revenue.

Cross-References

Appropriation bills, Art. V, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Governor to prepare budget, Art. VI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
State debt, Art. VIII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Strict accountability of state money, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Legislative findings — liability exposure, 2-9-106.

Fiscal notes for legislative bills, Title 5, ch. 4, part 2.
The Legislative Finance Act, Title 5, ch. 12.
State Finance, Title 17.
Budgeting and appropriations, Title 17, ch. 7.
Statutory appropriations, Title 17, ch. 7, part 5.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 582, 586, 595, 946, 949, 950, 952, 1066.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 582.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376, 1490, 1493, 1494, 1508, 1509, 2135, 2136.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2244, 2926 through 2928.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 307.
Final consideration, Trans. 2469, 2470.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1098.

Section 10. Local government debt. The legislature shall by law limit debts of counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

Cross-References

Local government, Art. XI, Mont. Const.
Local government financial administration and taxation, Title 7, ch. 6.
Local government debt management, Title 7, ch. 7.
Limit on bonded indebtedness of urban transportation district, 7-14-236.
School finance, Title 20, ch. 9.
Limit on bonded indebtedness of school district, 20-9-406.
Limit on bonded indebtedness of community college district, 20-15-404.
University System finance, Title 20, ch. 25, part 4.
Debt limits of irrigation district, 85-7-2001.
Debt limits of drainage district, 85-8-501.
Debt limits of conservancy district, 85-9-406.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 583, 586, 595, 946, 949, 950, 952, 1066.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 583.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1509 through 1516.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2244, 2245, 2926 through 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 2470 through 2472.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1098.

Section 11. Use of loan proceeds. All money borrowed by or on behalf of the state or any county, city, town, or other local governmental entity shall be used only for purposes specified in the authorizing law.

Cross-References

Strict accountability of public money, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Local Government, Title 7.
Local government finance and taxation, Title 7, ch. 6.
Local government debt management, Title 7, ch. 7.
Special improvement districts, Title 7, ch. 12.
State Finance, Title 17.
Public bond issues, Title 17, ch. 5.
Authority of Department of Administration to issue bonds, 18-2-105.
School finance, Title 20, ch. 9.
Community college district financing, Title 20, ch. 15, parts 3 and 4.
University System finance, Title 20, ch. 25, part 4.
Issuance of bonds for university purposes, 20-25-402.
Issuance of bonds for public library purposes, 22-1-304.
Issuance of bonds for airport purposes, 67-10-402, 67-11-303.
Issuance of solid waste management systems bonds, 75-10-112.
Issuance of bonds under Open-Space Land and Voluntary Conservation Easement Act, 76-6-109.
Issuance of conservation district bonds, 76-15-506.
Montana Agricultural Loan Authority Act, Title 80, ch. 12.
Renewable resource grant and loan program, Title 85, ch. 1, part 6.
Issuance of bonds for industrial development projects, Title 90, ch. 5, part 1.
Issuance of bonds under Housing Act of 1975, 90-6-111 through 90-6-126.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 583, 586, 595, 946, 949, 950, 952, 1066.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 583.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1376, 1516.

Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2245, 2926 through 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 2472, 2473.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1098.

Section 12. Strict accountability. The legislature shall by law insure strict accountability of all revenue received and money spent by the state and counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

Cross-References

Use of loan proceeds, Art. VIII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Investment of public funds, Art. VIII, sec. 13, Mont. Const.
Prohibited payments, Art. VIII, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Audits of political subdivisions, Title 2, ch. 7, part 5.
Director of Department of Administration as ex officio State Treasurer, 2-15-1002.
Board of Examiners, 2-15-1007.
Board of Investments, 2-15-1808.
The Legislative Audit Act, Title 5, ch. 13.
Local Government, Title 7.
Taxation, Title 15.
State Finance, Title 17.
Public Contracts, Title 18.
School finance, Title 20, ch. 9.
Community college finance, Title 20, ch. 15, parts 3 and 4.
University System finance, Title 20, ch. 25, part 4.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 581, 582, 586, 595, 596, 946, 949, 950, 952, 1066.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 581.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 921, 924, 1001, 1002, 1376, 1516, 1517.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2245, 2926 through 2928.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 307.
Final consideration, Trans. 2473, 2474.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1098.

Section 13. Investment of public funds and public retirement system and state compensation insurance fund assets. (1) The legislature shall provide for a unified investment program for public funds and public retirement system and state compensation insurance fund assets and provide rules therefor, including supervision of investment of surplus funds of all counties, cities, towns, and other local governmental entities. Each fund forming a part of the unified investment program shall be separately identified. Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), no public funds shall be invested in private corporate capital stock. The investment program shall be audited at least annually and a report thereof submitted to the governor and legislature.

(2) The public school fund and the permanent funds of the Montana university system and all other state institutions of learning shall be safely and conservatively invested in:

(a) Public securities of the state, its subdivisions, local government units, and districts within the state, or

(b) Bonds of the United States or other securities fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, or

(c) Such other safe investments bearing a fixed rate of interest as may be provided by law.

(3) Investment of public retirement system assets shall be managed in a fiduciary capacity in the same manner that a prudent expert acting in a fiduciary capacity and familiar with the circumstances would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a similar character with similar aims. Public retirement system assets may be invested in private corporate capital stock.

(4) Investment of state compensation insurance fund assets shall be managed in a fiduciary capacity in the same manner that a prudent expert acting in a fiduciary capacity and familiar with the circumstances would use in the conduct of a private insurance organization. State compensation insurance fund assets may be invested in private corporate capital stock. However, the stock investments shall not exceed 25 percent of the book value of the state compensation insurance fund's total invested assets.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 25, approved Nov. 8, 1994; amd. Const. Amend. No. 34, approved Nov. 7, 2000.

Cross-References

Strict accountability of public money, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Board of Investments, 2-15-1808.
Investment of county or county high school money, 7-6-2701, 7-7-2112, 20-9-213.
Investment of coal severance tax trust fund, 15-35-108.
State Finance, Title 17.
Unified investment program, Title 17, ch. 6, part 2.
Montana In-State Investment Act, Title 17, ch. 6, part 3.
Investment of funds under public employees' retirement system, 19-2-504.
Investment of funds under firefighters' retirement system, 19-18-403.
Police retirement — local funds — investment of fund, 19-19-203.
Investment of funds under teachers' retirement system, 19-20-501.
Notice of sale or redemption of school bonds sent to Board of Investments, 20-9-431, 20-9-441.
Purchase and payment on school district bonds bought by Board of Investments, 20-9-433, 20-9-435.
Investment of proceeds from leasing, use, sale, or disposition of state lands, 77-1-202.
Investment of Board of Hail Insurance funds, 80-2-222.
Investment of proceeds from certain fees charged by Department of Agriculture, 80-9-207, 80-11-210.
Investment of funds from earmarked accounts of Department of Livestock, 81-1-104.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 583, 586, 596, 597, 602, 603, 753 through 756, 946, 949, 950, 952, 953, 1066, 1067.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 583.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1002, 1376, 1517 through 1546, 1948, 2068, 2150, 2151.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2245, 2246, 2433, 2434, 2926 through 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 2474, 2475.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1098.

Section 14. Prohibited payments. Except for interest on the public debt, no money shall be paid out of the treasury unless upon an appropriation made by law and a warrant drawn by the proper officer in pursuance thereof.

Cross-References

Appropriation bills, Art. V, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Strict accountability of public funds, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Director of Department of Administration as ex officio State Treasurer, 2-15-1002.
State Finance, Title 17.
Budgeting and appropriations, Title 17, ch. 7.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2937, 2938.
Committee report, Vol. II 866, 873, 875, 879, 884, 889, 1067.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 416.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 790 through 792, 797, 1366, 1376, 1517 [referred to as article iv (bicameral), section 15, and (unicameral), section 16].
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1627, 2923, 2924, 2926 through 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 1907, 1908.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1098.

Section 15. Public retirement system assets. (1) Public retirement systems shall be funded on an actuarially sound basis. Public retirement system assets, including income and actuarially required contributions, shall not be encumbered, diverted, reduced, or terminated and shall be held in trust to provide benefits to participants and their beneficiaries and to defray administrative expenses.

(2) The governing boards of public retirement systems shall administer the system, including actuarial determinations, as fiduciaries of system participants and their beneficiaries.

History: En. Sec. 2, Const. Amend. No. 25, approved Nov. 8, 1994.

Section 16. Limitation on sales tax or use tax rates. The rate of a general statewide sales tax or use tax may not exceed 4%.

History: En. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 27, approved Nov. 8, 1994.

Section 17. Prohibition on real property transfer taxes. The state or any local government unit may not impose any tax, including a sales tax, on the sale or transfer of real property.

History: En. Sec. 1, Const. Initiative No. 105, approved Nov. 2, 2010.

ARTICLE IX
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Section
1. Protection and improvement.
2. Reclamation.
3. Water rights.
4. Cultural resources.
5. Severance tax on coal — trust fund.
6. Noxious weed management trust fund.
7. Preservation of harvest heritage.

Article Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Section 1. Protection and improvement. (1) The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the administration and enforcement of this duty.

(3) The legislature shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 33.
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Title 2, ch. 15, part 34.
Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.
Water Courts, Title 3, ch. 7.
Environmental Quality Council, Title 5, ch. 16.
Coal severance tax, Title 15, ch. 35.
Oil and gas severance tax, Title 15, ch. 36.
Mining license taxes, Title 15, ch. 37.
Resource indemnity trust tax, Title 15, ch. 38.
Purpose of coal tax trust fund, 17-6-303.
Parks, Title 23, ch. 1.
Recreation, Title 23, ch. 2.
Environmental Protection, Title 75.
Hazardous substances — remedial actions, Title 75, ch. 10, part 7.
Uniform Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act, Title 75, ch. 16, part 1.
Minerals, Oil, and Gas, Title 82.
Water Use, Title 85.
Fish and Wildlife, Title 87.
Reclamation and development grants program, Title 90, ch. 2, part 11.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2938, 2939.
Committee report, Vol. II 550, 552, 554, 555, 561, 562, 931, 933, 935, 939, 1068.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1199 through 1271, 1274, 1275, 1637 through 1640.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2210, 2211, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 75, 96, 107, 108, 193, 240, 252, 261, 308, 309.
Final consideration, Trans. 2454, 2455.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1099.

Section 2. Reclamation. (1) All lands disturbed by the taking of natural resources shall be reclaimed. The legislature shall provide effective requirements and standards for the reclamation of lands disturbed.

(2) The legislature shall provide for a fund, to be known as the resource indemnity trust of the state of Montana, to be funded by such taxes on the extraction of natural resources as the legislature may from time to time impose for that purpose.

(3) The principal of the resource indemnity trust shall forever remain inviolate in an amount of one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000), guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 1, approved Nov. 5, 1974.

Cross-References

The Montana Resource Indemnity Trust and Ground Water Assessment Act, Title 15, ch. 38.
Environmental contingency grant program, Title 75, ch. 1, part 11.

Notice to surface owner of reclamation plan prior to commencement of mining operation, 82-2-303.
Reclamation, Title 82, ch. 4.
Restoration following plugging of oil or gas well, 82-11-123.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2938, 2939.
Committee report, Vol. II 552, 555, 556, 931, 933, 935, 939, 1068.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1199, 1200, 1275 through 1301, 1353 through 1363.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2211 through 2213, 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 2455, 2456.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1099.

Section 3. Water rights. (1) All existing rights to the use of any waters for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed.

(2) The use of all water that is now or may hereafter be appropriated for sale, rent, distribution, or other beneficial use, the right of way over the lands of others for all ditches, drains, flumes, canals, and aqueducts necessarily used in connection therewith, and the sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water shall be held to be a public use.

(3) All surface, underground, flood, and atmospheric waters within the boundaries of the state are the property of the state for the use of its people and are subject to appropriation for beneficial uses as provided by law.

(4) The legislature shall provide for the administration, control, and regulation of water rights and shall establish a system of centralized records, in addition to the present system of local records.

Cross-References

Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission, 2-15-212.
Water Pollution Control Advisory Council, 2-15-2107.
Board of Water Well Contractors, 2-15-3307.
Water Courts, Title 3, ch. 7.
Property tax exemptions for certain water projects, 15-6-205, 15-6-206.
Coal severance tax bonds — renewable resource and water development, Title 17, ch. 5, part 7.
Stream access, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.
Smith River Management Act, Title 23, ch. 2, part 4.
Obstruction of navigable water as nuisance, 27-30-101, 45-8-111.
Licensing of water well contractors, Title 37, ch. 43, part 3.
Eminent domain, Title 70, ch. 30.
Environmental Protection, Title 75.
State policy to protect use of water for useful or beneficial purposes, 75-7-102.
Flood plain and floodway management, Title 76, ch. 5.
Protection of forest resources, Title 76, ch. 13, part 1.
Conservation districts — water conservation, Title 76, ch. 15, part 4.
Water projects on state lands, 77-1-605.
Geothermal resources, 77-4-104.
Protection of water from mining or reclamation projects, 82-4-251.
Water Use, Title 85.
Department assistance to Water Judges, 85-2-243.
Fish and Wildlife, Title 87.
Acquisition of water by Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 87-1-209.
Stream protection, Title 87, ch. 5, part 5.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2938, 2939.
Committee report, Vol. II 552, 553, 556, 557, 931, 933, 935, 939, 1068.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 563.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 151, 1301 through 1351, 2377, 2761.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2213, 2214, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 76, 145, 213, 214, 255.
Final consideration, Trans. 2456, 2457.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1099.

Section 4. Cultural resources. The legislature shall provide for the identification, acquisition, restoration, enhancement, preservation, and administration of scenic, historic, archeologic, scientific, cultural, and recreational areas, sites, records and objects, and for their use and enjoyment by the people.

Cross-References

Recognition of distinction and uniqueness of Indian culture, Art. X, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Protection of Indian culture, 2-1-305.
Montana Historical Society, Montana Arts Council, and State Library Commission, 2-15-1511 through 2-15-1514.

Libraries, Arts, and Antiquities, Title 22.
Parks, Title 23, ch. 1.
Recreation, Title 23, ch. 2.
Indian affairs — planning and coordination, Title 90, ch. 11.
Montana natural heritage program, Title 90, ch. 15.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2938, 2939.
Committee report, Vol. II 550, 553, 558, 931 through 934, 939, 940, 1068.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1199, 1351, 1352.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2214, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 75, 193, 240.
Final consideration, Trans. 2457, 2458.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1099.

Section 5. Severance tax on coal — trust fund. The legislature shall dedicate not less than one-fourth (1/4) of the coal severance tax to a trust fund, the interest and income from which may be appropriated. The principal of the trust shall forever remain inviolate unless appropriated by vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members of each house of the legislature. After December 31, 1979, at least fifty percent (50%) of the severance tax shall be dedicated to the trust fund.

History: En. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 3, approved Nov. 2, 1976.

Cross-References

Revenue and finance, Art. VIII, Mont. Const.
Coal Board, 2-15-1821.
Coal severance tax, Title 15, ch. 35.
Coal severance tax bonds — renewable resource and water development, Title 17, ch. 5, part 7.
Trust as separate investment fund, 17-6-203.
Permissible investments of coal tax trust fund, 17-6-211.
Purpose of coal tax trust fund, 17-6-303.
Cultural and aesthetic project grants, 22-2-301.
Acquisition of certain state parks, monuments, or historic sites, 23-1-108.
Renewable resource loan debt service fund — allocation of coal severance tax, 85-1-603.
Coal impacts — evaluation and abatement funding, Title 90, ch. 6, part 2.

Section 6. Noxious weed management trust fund. (1) The legislature shall provide for a fund, to be known as the noxious weed management trust of the state of Montana, to be funded as provided by law.

(2) The principal of the noxious weed management trust fund shall forever remain inviolate in an amount of ten million dollars ($10,000,000) unless appropriated by vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members of each house of the legislature.

(3) The interest and income generated from the noxious weed management trust fund may be appropriated by a majority vote of each house of the legislature. Appropriations of the interest and income shall be used only to fund the noxious weed management program, as provided by law.

(4) The principal of the noxious weed management trust fund in excess of ten million dollars ($10,000,000) may be appropriated by a majority vote of each house of the legislature. Appropriations of the principal in excess of ten million dollars ($10,000,000) shall be used only to fund the noxious weed management program, as provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 40, approved Nov. 2, 2004.

Section 7. Preservation of harvest heritage. The opportunity to harvest wild fish and wild game animals is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual citizens of the state and does not create a right to trespass on private property or diminution of other private rights.

History: En. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 41, approved Nov. 2, 2004.

Cross-References

Right to harvest — legislative intent, 87-1-107.

ARTICLE X
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

Section
1. Educational goals and duties.
2. Public school fund.
3. Public school fund inviolate.
4. Board of land commissioners.
5. Public school fund revenue.
6. Aid prohibited to sectarian schools.
7. Nondiscrimination in education.
8. School district trustees.
9. Boards of education.
10. State university funds.
11. Public land trust, disposition.

Article Cross-References

Superintendent of Public Instruction as Executive Branch officer, Art. VI, sec. 1 through 4, 6, and 7, Mont. Const.

Education, Title 2, ch. 15, part 15; Title 20.

State Lands, Title 77.

Section 1. Educational goals and duties. (1) It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state.

(2) The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.

(3) The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools. The legislature may provide such other educational institutions, public libraries, and educational programs as it deems desirable. It shall fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system.

Cross-References

Public school fund, Art. X, sec. 2 and 3, Mont. Const.
Nondiscrimination in education, Art. X, sec. 7, Mont. Const.; 49-2-307; 49-3-203.
State university funds, Art. X, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
State Board of Education, 2-15-1501.
Board of Regents of Higher Education, 2-15-1505.
Commissioner of Higher Education, 2-15-1506.
Board of Public Education, 2-15-1507.
Property tax exemption of property used for educational purposes, 15-6-201.
Education, Title 20.
Vocational and technical education, Title 20, ch. 7, part 3.
Montana State School for the Deaf and Blind, Title 20, ch. 8.
State equalization aid, Title 20, ch. 9, part 3.
Community college districts, Title 20, ch. 15.
University System, Title 20, ch. 25.
Charges for tuition — waivers, 20-25-421.
Libraries, Title 22, ch. 1.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 718, 721 through 725, 993, 996, 1002, 1003, 1069.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1949 through 1989, 2022, 2151 through 2159.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2572, 2573, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 95, 139, 143, 169, 170, 204, 284.
Final consideration, Trans. 2665 through 2667.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1099.

Section 2. Public school fund. The public school fund of the state shall consist of:

(1) Proceeds from the school lands which have been or may hereafter be granted by the United States,

(2) Lands granted in lieu thereof,

(3) Lands given or granted by any person or corporation under any law or grant of the United States,

(4) All other grants of land or money made from the United States for general educational purposes or without special purpose,

(5) All interests in estates that escheat to the state,

(6) All unclaimed shares and dividends of any corporation incorporated in the state,

(7) All other grants, gifts, devises or bequests made to the state for general educational purposes.

Cross-References

Public school fund inviolate, Art. X, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Public school fund revenue, Art. X, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
State university funds, Art. X, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Public land trust — disposition, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Public school fund as separate investment fund, 17-6-203.
Permissible investments for public school fund, 17-6-211.
Public school fund, Title 20, ch. 9, part 6.
Escheated Estates Act, Title 72, ch. 14.
State Lands, Title 77.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 583, 596, 718, 725, 726, 993, 996, 997, 1002, 1003, 1069.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1957, 1989, 1990, 1995, 2143.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2573, 2574, 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 2667, 2668.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1099.

Section 3. Public school fund inviolate. The public school fund shall forever remain inviolate, guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

Cross-References

Public school fund, Art. X, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; Title 20, ch. 9, part 6.
Public school fund revenue, Art. X, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
State university funds, Art. X, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 718, 726, 741, 742, 993, 997, 1003, 1004, 1069.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1539 through 1544, 1948, 1990, 2146, 2148, 2245, 2246.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2574, 2927, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 169, 176.
Final consideration, Trans. 2668, 2669.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1100.

Section 4. Board of land commissioners. The governor, superintendent of public instruction, auditor, secretary of state, and attorney general constitute the board of land commissioners. It has the authority to direct, control, lease, exchange, and sell school lands and lands which have been or may be granted for the support and benefit of the various state educational institutions, under such regulations and restrictions as may be provided by law.

Cross-References

Members as Executive Branch officers, Art. VI, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Public land trust — disposition, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Governor as member, 2-15-201.
Secretary of State as member, 2-15-401.
Attorney General as member, 2-15-501.
Approval of Board required for state building leases required under some circumstances, 18-3-105.
Sale or lease of state land to school district, 20-6-621.
Deposit of interest and income of public school fund by Board, 20-9-342.
Community college trustees may accept funds, income, and property from Board, 20-15-225.
Board of Regents may accept funds, income, and property from Board, 20-25-301.
Power to accept recreational and camping ground, 23-1-103.
Montana Natural Areas Act of 1974, Title 76, ch. 12, part 1.
Board's role in protection of forest resources, Title 76, ch. 13, parts 1 and 2.
State Lands, Title 77.
Exchanges of state land, Title 77, ch. 2, part 2.
Sales of state land, Title 77, ch. 2, part 3.
Board's role in reclamation, Title 82, ch. 4.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 718, 719, 726, 727, 994, 997, 1002, 1004, 1069, 1070.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 860, 863 through 865, 869, 874, 917, 1280, 1990 through 2002.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2574, 2575, 2928.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 329.
Final consideration, Trans. 2669, 2670.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1100.

Section 5. Public school fund revenue. (1) Ninety-five percent of all the interest received on the public school fund and ninety-five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall be equitably apportioned annually to public elementary and secondary school districts as provided by law.

(2) The remaining five percent of all interest received on the public school fund, and the remaining five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall annually be added to the public school fund and become and forever remain an inseparable and inviolable part thereof.

Cross-References

Public school fund, Art. X, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; Title 20, ch. 9, part 6.
Public school fund inviolate, Art. X, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Deposit of interest and income money, 20-9-341, 20-9-342.
State Lands, Title 77.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 719, 727, 728, 994, 997, 1002, 1004, 1070.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 149, 1948, 1977, 2006 through 2008.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2575, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 146, 169, 170.
Final consideration, Trans. 2670, 2671.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1100.

Section 6. Aid prohibited to sectarian schools. (1) The legislature, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and public corporations shall not make any direct or indirect appropriation or payment from any public fund or monies, or any grant of lands or other property for any sectarian purpose or to aid any church, school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other literary or scientific institution, controlled in whole or in part by any church, sect, or denomination.

(2) This section shall not apply to funds from federal sources provided to the state for the express purpose of distribution to non-public education.

Cross-References

Freedom of religion, Art. II, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Religious discrimination in public schools prohibited — advocating sectarian tenets in public schools prohibited, Art. X, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Religious instruction released time program, 20-1-308.
Religious exemption for immunization requirements, 20-5-405.
Accreditation of nonpublic high schools, 20-7-102.
Sectarian publications prohibited — prayer permitted in public schools, 20-7-112.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 629, 716, 719, 728 through 730, 743 through 747, 994, 997, 1002, 1004, 1070.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1646, 1960, 2008 through 2031, 2235.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2575, 2576, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 137, 189, 222, 276, 311 through 313.
Final consideration, Trans. 2671, 2672.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1100.

Section 7. Nondiscrimination in education. No religious or partisan test or qualification shall be required of any teacher or student as a condition of admission into any public educational institution. Attendance shall not be required at any religious service. No sectarian tenets shall be advocated in any public educational institution of the state. No person shall be refused admission to any public educational institution on account of sex, race, creed, religion, political beliefs, or national origin.

Cross-References

Equal protection, Art. II, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Freedom of religion, Art. II, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Aid to sectarian schools prohibited, Art. X, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Religious instruction released time program, 20-1-308.
Teachers, superintendents, and principals, Title 20, ch. 4.
Attendance of Indian children, 20-5-108.
Religious exemption for immunization requirements, 20-5-405.
Sectarian publications prohibited — prayer permitted in public schools, 20-7-112.
University System to instruct men and women equally, 20-25-101.
Freedom from discrimination, 49-1-102.
Discrimination in education prohibited, 49-2-307.
Discrimination in educational, counseling, and vocational guidance programs prohibited, 49-3-203.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 719, 730, 731, 994, 997, 998, 1002, 1004, 1070.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2031 through 2045.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2576, 2928.
Final consideration, Trans. 2672 through 2674.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1100.

Section 8. School district trustees. The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in a board of trustees to be elected as provided by law.

Cross-References

Filing of audit report and financial report, 2-7-514.
Consent of trustees to appointment of District Superintendent as Municipal Superintendent, 7-3-1348.
Management of school money, Title 7, ch. 6, part 28.
Education, Title 20.
School district trustees generally, Title 20, ch. 3, part 3.
Attachment of property under control of trustees, 27-18-406.
Governmental code of fair practices — application to school districts, 49-3-102.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 719, 731, 735, 994, 998, 1002, 1004, 1070.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1971, 1977, 2046 through 2048, 2050, 2060 through 2062, 2103, 2165.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2576, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 122, 340.
Final consideration, Trans. 2674, 2675.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1100.

Section 9. Boards of education. (1) There is a state board of education composed of the board of regents of higher education and the board of public education. It is responsible for long-range planning, and for coordinating and evaluating policies and programs for the state's educational systems. It shall submit unified budget requests. A tie vote at any meeting may be broken by the governor, who is an ex officio member of each component board.

(2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms, as provided by law. The governor and superintendent of public instruction are ex officio non-voting members of the board.

(c) The board shall appoint a commissioner of higher education and prescribe his term and duties.

(d) The funds and appropriations under the control of the board of regents are subject to the same audit provisions as are all other state funds.

(3) (a) There is a board of public education to exercise general supervision over the public school system and such other public educational institutions as may be assigned by law. Other duties of the board shall be provided by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms as provided by law. The governor, commissioner of higher education and state superintendent of public instruction shall be ex officio non-voting members of the board.

Cross-References

Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction as executive officers, Art. VI, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Board of Regents exempt from Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Governor as member of State Board of Education, 2-15-201.
Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2-15-701; Title 20, ch. 3, part 1.
State Board of Education, 2-15-1501.
Board of Regents, 2-15-1505.
Commissioner of Higher Education, 2-15-1506.
Board of Public Education, 2-15-1507.
Appointments to Boards, 2-15-1508.
Agencies allocated to State Board of Education, 2-15-1511.
Application of portions of state employee classification requirements to Board of Regents and Board of Public Education, 2-18-103.
Approval of gubernatorial appointments, Title 5, ch. 5, part 3.
The Legislative Audit Act, Title 5, ch. 13.
Submission of University System budget, 17-7-112.
Construction of buildings by Board of Regents without legislative approval, 18-2-102.
University System buildings exempt from certain preconstruction requirements, 18-2-103.
Education, Title 20.
State boards and commissions generally, Title 20, ch. 2.
University System, Title 20, ch. 25.
Charges for tuition — waivers, 20-25-421.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 719, 720, 731 through 740, 994, 995, 998, 999, 1002, 1004, 1005, 1070, 1071.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 858, 862, 864, 873, 2046, 2049 through 2091, 2096 through 2142, 2159 through 2174, 2894.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2576 through 2593, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 196, 197, 230, 256, 282, 283, 287, 324.
Final consideration, Trans. 2675, 2676.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1100.

Section 10. State university funds. The funds of the Montana university system and of all other state institutions of learning, from whatever source accruing, shall forever remain inviolate and sacred to the purpose for which they were dedicated. The various funds shall be respectively invested under such regulations as may be provided by law, and shall be guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion. The interest from such invested funds, together with the rent from leased lands or properties, shall be devoted to the maintenance and perpetuation of the respective institutions.

Cross-References

The Legislative Audit Act, Title 5, ch. 13.
University funds within treasury, 17-2-102.
Fiscal year and financial reports of university units, 17-2-110.
Endowments to University System, Title 17, ch. 3, part 10.
University funds as separate investment fund, 17-6-203.
University finance, Title 20, ch. 25, part 4.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 720, 740, 995, 999, 1002, 1005, 1071.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2056, 2142.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2593, 2594, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 170, 196, 197, 283.
Final consideration, Trans. 2676, 2677.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1100, 1101.

Section 11. Public land trust, disposition. (1) All lands of the state that have been or may be granted by congress, or acquired by gift or grant or devise from any person or corporation, shall be public lands of the state. They shall be held in trust for the people, to be disposed of as hereafter provided, for the respective purposes for which they have been or may be granted, donated or devised.

(2) No such land or any estate or interest therein shall ever be disposed of except in pursuance of general laws providing for such disposition, or until the full market value of the

estate or interest disposed of, to be ascertained in such manner as may be provided by law, has been paid or safely secured to the state.

(3) No land which the state holds by grant from the United States which prescribes the manner of disposal and minimum price shall be disposed of except in the manner and for at least the price prescribed without the consent of the United States.

(4) All public land shall be classified by the board of land commissioners in a manner provided by law. Any public land may be exchanged for other land, public or private, which is equal in value and, as closely as possible, equal in area.

Cross-References

Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
State Lands, Title 77.
Exchanges of state land, Title 77, ch. 2, part 2.
Sales of state land, Title 77, ch. 2, part 3.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2939, 2940.
Committee report, Vol. II 748 through 752, 1000 through 1002, 1006, 1071, 1072.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 757.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2142 through 2150.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2593, 2594, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 266, 267, 329.
Final consideration, Trans. 2677, 2678.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1101.

ARTICLE XI
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Section

1. Definition.
2. Counties.
3. Forms of government.
4. General powers.
5. Self-government charters.
6. Self-government powers.
7. Intergovernmental cooperation.
8. Initiative and referendum.
9. Voter review of local government.

Article Cross-References

Sovereign immunity abolished — exceptions, Art. II, sec. 18, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 9.
District Court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Justices of the Peace, Art. VII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Judicial districts, Art. VII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Taxing jurisdictions to use valuation established by state, Art. VIII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Review of tax grievances at local level required, Art. VIII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Local government debt, Art. VIII, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Use of loan proceeds by local government unit, Art. VIII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Strict accountability of local government finances, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Investment of local government funds, Art. VIII, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; 17-6-204, 17-6-205.
Code of ethics for local officers and employees, Art. XIII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 2.
Statutes imposing new local government duties to include means of funding, 1-2-112.
State agencies not to shift cost to local governments, 1-2-116.
Public participation in governmental operations, Title 2, ch. 3.
Audits of political subdivisions, Title 2, ch. 7, part 5.
Montana Recall Act, Title 2, ch. 16, part 6.
Group insurance for local government employees, 2-18-702.
District Courts, Title 3, ch. 5.
Municipal Courts, Title 3, ch. 6.
Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10.
City Courts, Title 3, ch. 11.
Local Government, Title 7.
Disaster and emergency services, Title 10, ch. 3.
Elections, Title 13.
Taxation, Title 15.
Bond issues, Title 17, ch. 5.
Public Retirement Systems, Title 19.
Education, Title 20.

Public libraries, Title 22, ch. 1.
Authority of local governments to regulate gambling, 23-5-171.
Local government ordinances on obscenity, 45-8-201.
Discrimination by political subdivisions prohibited, 49-2-308.
Governmental code of fair practices, Title 49, ch. 3.
Local Boards of Health, Title 50, ch. 2.
Land Resources and Use, Title 76.
Lease of local government land for oil and gas development, Title 82, ch. 10, part 2.
Coal development impact on local governments — grants, Title 90, ch. 6, part 2.

Section 1. Definition. The term "local government units" includes, but is not limited to, counties and incorporated cities and towns. Other local government units may be established by law.

Cross-References
Montana Recall Act — political subdivision defined, 2-16-602.
Nature of counties, 7-1-2101.
Nature of municipalities, 7-1-4101.
City-county consolidation, Title 7, ch. 3, parts 11 through 13.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2940 through 2942.
Committee report, Vol. II 782, 785, 786, 1009, 1012, 1073.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2513, 2514, 2537.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2816, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 135, 215, 253.
Final consideration, Trans. 2832, 2833.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1101.

Section 2. Counties. The counties of the state are those that exist on the date of ratification of this constitution. No county boundary may be changed or county seat transferred until approved by a majority of those voting on the question in each county affected.

Cross-References
Description of boundaries of new counties included in session laws, 5-11-207.
Counties generally, Title 7, ch. 1, part 21.
Creation, alteration, and abandonment of counties, Title 7, ch. 2, parts 1 and 21, 22, and 24 through 27.
County boundary changes, Title 7, ch. 2, part 22.
Alternate forms of county government, Title 7, ch. 3.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2940 through 2942.
Committee report, Vol. II 782, 785 through 788, 1009, 1012, 1015, 1073.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 802.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2514 through 2516.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2816, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 153, 160, 163, 201, 202, 215.
Final consideration, Trans. 2833, 2834.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1101.

Section 3. Forms of government. (1) The legislature shall provide methods for governing local government units and procedures for incorporating, classifying, merging, consolidating, and dissolving such units, and altering their boundaries. The legislature shall provide such optional or alternative forms of government that each unit or combination of units may adopt, amend, or abandon an optional or alternative form by a majority of those voting on the question.

(2) One optional form of county government includes, but is not limited to, the election of three county commissioners, a clerk and recorder, a clerk of district court, a county attorney, a sheriff, a treasurer, a surveyor, a county superintendent of schools, an assessor, a coroner, and a public administrator. The terms, qualifications, duties, and compensation of those offices shall be provided by law. The Board of county commissioners may consolidate two or more such offices. The Boards of two or more counties may provide for a joint office and for the election of one official to perform the duties of any such office in those counties.

Cross-References
Self-government charters, Art. XI, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Voter review of local government, Art. XI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Alternative forms for local governments, Title 7, ch. 3, parts 1 through 7.
County officers, Title 7, ch. 4.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2940 through 2942.
Committee report, Vol. II 525, 780, 782, 785, 788 through 791, 1009, 1012, 1015, 1073.

Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 802.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1129 through 1131, 1154 through 1158, 2512, 2513, 2516 through 2521, 2529.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2816, 2817, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 80, 81, 92, 93, 102 through 104, 135, 136, 215, 216, 234, 253, 300, 301, 314.
Final consideration, Trans. 2834, 2835.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1101.

Section 4. General powers. (1) A local government unit without self-government powers has the following general powers:

(a) An incorporated city or town has the powers of a municipal corporation and legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(b) A county has legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(c) Other local government units have powers provided by law.

(2) The powers of incorporated cities and towns and counties shall be liberally construed.

Cross-References

Self-government charters, Art. XI, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Self-government powers, Art. XI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Local Government, Title 7.
Municipal Finance Consolidation Act, Title 17, ch. 5, part 16.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2940 through 2942.
Committee report, Vol. II 581, 780, 782, 783, 791 through 795, 1009, 1010, 1012, 1013, 1015, 1073.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2521 through 2524, 2530.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2817, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 136, 155, 156, 215, 216, 253, 314.
Final consideration, Trans. 2835, 2836.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1101.

Section 5. Self-government charters. (1) The legislature shall provide procedures permitting a local government unit or combination of units to frame, adopt, amend, revise, or abandon a self-government charter with the approval of a majority of those voting on the question. The procedures shall not require approval of a charter by a legislative body.

(2) If the legislature does not provide such procedures by July 1, 1975, they may be established by election either:

(a) Initiated by petition in the local government unit or combination of units; or

(b) Called by the governing body of the local government unit or combination of units.

(3) Charter provisions establishing executive, legislative, and administrative structure and organization are superior to statutory provisions.

Cross-References

Self-government powers, Art. XI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Local government initiative and referendum, Art. XI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Nature of self-government local governments, Title 7, ch. 1, part 1.
Charter form, Title 7, ch. 3, part 7.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2940 through 2942.
Committee report, Vol. II 783, 795, 796, 1010, 1013, 1015, 1074.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1512, 2512, 2524 through 2530, 2532, 2535.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2817, 2818, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 82, 83, 136, 155, 156, 216, 219, 253, 254.
Final consideration, Trans. 2836 through 2838.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1101, 1102.

Section 6. Self-government powers. A local government unit adopting a self-government charter may exercise any power not prohibited by this constitution, law, or charter. This grant of self-government powers may be extended to other local government units through optional forms of government provided for in section 3.

Cross-References

Self-government charters, Art. XI, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Nature of self-government local governments, Title 7, ch. 1, part 1.
Charter form, Title 7, ch. 3, part 7.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2940 through 2942.
Committee report, Vol. II 783, 785, 796 through 798, 1010, 1013, 1015, 1074.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2512, 2524, 2528 through 2534, 2548, 2609, 2610.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2818, 2928.

Delegate proposals, Vol. I 136, 155, 156, 216, 254.
Final consideration, Trans. 2838, 2839.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1102.

Section 7. Intergovernmental cooperation. (1) Unless prohibited by law or charter, a local government unit may

(a) cooperate in the exercise of any function, power, or responsibility with,

(b) share the services of any officer or facilities with,

(c) transfer or delegate any function, power, responsibility, or duty of any officer to one or more other local government units, school districts, the state, or the United States.

(2) The qualified electors of a local government unit may, by initiative or referendum, require it to do so.

Cross-References

Local government initiative and referendum, Art. XI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 7, ch. 5, part 1.
Intercounty consolidation of offices, 7-4-2303.
Collection of municipal taxes by county — tax sales, 7-6-4413, 7-6-4414, 7-6-4421 through 7-6-4423.
Joint city-county buildings, Title 7, ch. 8, part 2.
Interlocal Cooperation Act, Title 7, ch. 11, part 1.
Interlocal Cooperation Commission, Title 7, ch. 11, part 2.
Multijurisdictional service districts, Title 7, ch. 11, part 11.
Disaster and emergency services — intergovernmental cooperation, Title 10, ch. 3, part 2.
State-Tribal Cooperative Agreements Act, Title 18, ch. 11, part 1.
Educational cooperative agreements, Title 20, ch. 9, part 7.
Cooperation in library services, 22-1-315 through 22-1-317.
Mutual assistance of peace officers, Title 44, ch. 11, part 1.
Local Boards of Health, Title 50, ch. 2.
Maintenance agreements between local governments and Department of Transportation, 60-2-204.
Local air pollution control programs, Title 75, ch. 2, part 3.
Local government participation under Montana Major Facility Siting Act, 75-20-211.
Land Resources and Use, Title 76.
Cooperation with state during energy emergency, 90-4-311.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2940 through 2942.
Committee report, Vol. II 783, 798, 799, 1010, 1013 through 1015, 1074.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2526, 2534 through 2536.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2818, 2819, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 153, 136, 156, 254.
Final consideration, Trans. 2839, 2840.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1102.

Section 8. Initiative and referendum. The legislature shall extend the initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by the constitution to the qualified electors of each local government unit.

Cross-References

Initiative, Art. III, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Amendment of self-government charter or adopted alternate form of government by initiative or referendum, 7-3-103.
Alteration of existing form of local government, 7-3-121 through 7-3-125, 7-3-141 through 7-3-161.
Petition for city-county government consolidation, 7-3-1204.
Local government initiatives and referendums, Title 7, ch. 5, part 1.
Form of petition calling for election on question of issuing county bonds, 7-7-2224.
Form of petition for creation of urban transportation district, 7-14-204.
Ballot issues, Title 13, ch. 27.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2940 through 2942.
Committee report, Vol. II 783, 785, 799, 1010, 1014, 1074.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2512, 2520, 2548, 2549.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2819, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 138, 216, 254.
Final consideration, Trans. 2840, 2841.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1102.

Section 9. Voter review of local government. (1) The legislature shall, within four years of the ratification of this constitution, provide procedures requiring each local government unit or combination of units to review its structure and submit one alternative form of government to the qualified electors at the next general or special election.

(2) The legislature shall require an election in each local government to determine whether a local government will undertake a review procedure once every ten years after the first election. Approval by a majority of those voting in the decennial general election on the question of undertaking a local government review is necessary to mandate the election of a local government study commission. Study commission members shall be elected during any regularly scheduled election in local governments mandating their election.

History: **Amd. Const. Amend. No. 6, approved Nov. 7, 1978.**

Cross-References

Legislature to provide alternate forms of local government, Art. XI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Self-government charters, Art. XI, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Alternate forms of local government, Title 7, ch. 3.
Procedure for alteration of existing forms of local government, 7-3-121 through 7-3-125, 7-3-141 through 7-3-161.
Local government review — study commissions, 7-3-171 through 7-3-193.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2940 through 2942.
Committee report, Vol. II 784, 785, 800, 801, 1010, 1011, 1014, 1015, 1074, 1075.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2512, 2513, 2555 through 2565.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2819, 2928.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 217, 234.
Final consideration, Trans. 2841, 2842.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1102.

ARTICLE XII
DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Section
1. Agriculture.
2. Labor.
3. Institutions and assistance.
4. Montana tobacco settlement trust fund.

Article Cross-References

General government, Art. III, Mont. Const.
Legislative Branch, Art. V, Mont. Const.; Title 5.
Executive Branch, Art. VI, Mont. Const.
Twenty principal departments, Art. VI, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Standards of conduct for public employees, Title 2, ch. 2.
Public participation in governmental operations, Title 2, ch. 3.
Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Legislative review of need for and performance of state agencies, Title 2, ch. 8, part 1.
Executive Branch officers and agencies, Title 2, ch. 15.
Termination of state agencies, Title 2, ch. 19, part 1.

Section 1. Agriculture. (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Agriculture and enact laws and provide appropriations to protect, enhance, and develop all agriculture.

(2) Special levies may be made on livestock and on agricultural commodities for disease control and indemnification, predator control, and livestock and commodity inspection, protection, research, and promotion. Revenue derived shall be used solely for the purposes of the levies.

Cross-References

Workday for agriculture and stockraising, Art. XII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Department of Agriculture created — head, 2-15-3001; Title 80, ch. 1.
Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, 2-15-3002.
Board of Hail Insurance, 2-15-3003.
Montana Alfalfa Seed Committee, 2-15-3004.
Montana Agriculture Development Council, 2-15-3015.
Department of Livestock, 2-15-3101.
Board of Livestock, 2-15-3102.
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 33.
Rangeland Resources Committee, 2-15-3304, 2-15-3305.
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Title 2, ch. 15, part 34.
County agricultural and livestock services, Title 7, ch. 21, part 32.
Public markets, Title 7, ch. 21, part 33.
County fairs, Title 7, ch. 21, part 34.
Local government weed and pest control, Title 7, ch. 22.

Municipal control over animals running at large, 7-23-4101.
Agricultural land as class three property for property tax purposes, 15-6-133.
Taxation of livestock and agricultural products, Title 15, ch. 24, part 9.
Property of agricultural and horticultural societies and irrigation districts exempt from property taxation, 15-6-201.
Irrigation and drainage facilities exempt from property taxation, 15-6-206.
Certain agricultural products exempt from taxation, 15-6-207.
Agricultural appraisal of land for property tax purposes, Title 15, ch. 7, part 2.
Exemption from corporate income tax for certain agricultural organizations, 15-31-102.
Montana State University - Bozeman — professional agricultural program, 20-25-221.
Agricultural experiment station, research centers, experimental farms, wool laboratory, and grain and seed laboratory, 20-25-222 through 20-25-232.
Harassment of livestock from snowmobile prohibited, 23-2-633.
Injunction against price fixing or regulation of product of the soil, 27-19-202.
Commission merchants, Title 30, ch. 11, part 4.
Cooperative associations, Title 35, ch. 15.
Agricultural associations, Title 35, ch. 16.
Cooperative agricultural marketing, Title 35, ch. 17.
Criminal mischief, 45-6-101.
Cruelty to animals, 45-8-211.
Harassment of livestock by aircraft prohibited, 67-1-204.
Environmental Protection, Title 75.
Land Resources and Use, Title 76.
State Lands, Title 77.
Agriculture, Title 80.
Livestock, Title 81.
Levy on cattle — Livestock Protective Committee, 81-6-104.
Levy on cattle — cattle protective districts, 81-6-204, 81-6-209.
State levy on livestock for predator control, 81-7-104, 81-7-118.
County levy on livestock for predator control, 81-7-201.
County levy on sheep for predator control, 81-7-303.
County levy for livestock shows and sales, 81-8-504.
Water Use, Title 85.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2942, 2943.
Committee report, Vol. II 550, 559, 560, 581, 586, 597, 598, 936 through 938, 941, 1076.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 563.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1199, 1363 through 1370, 1378, 1547.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2214 through 2217, 2928, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 244, 246.
Final consideration, Trans. 2458 through 2460.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1102.

Section 2. Labor. (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Labor and Industry, headed by a Commissioner appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

(2) A maximum period of 8 hours is a regular day's work in all industries and employment except agriculture and stock raising. The legislature may change this maximum period to promote the general welfare.

Cross-References

Department of Labor and Industry, Title 2, ch. 15, part 17; Title 39, ch. 1.
Workers' Compensation Judge allocated to Department of Administration, 2-15-1707.
Senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments, Title 5, ch. 5, part 3.
Employment and members of organized militia, 10-1-1009.
Disaster and emergency services law not to interfere with labor dispute, 10-3-102.
Injunctions in labor disputes, 27-19-103.
Labor, Title 39.
Hours of labor in certain employments, Title 39, ch. 4.
Child labor, Title 41, ch. 2.
Highway patrol authority over labor disputes prohibited, 44-1-1002.
Discrimination in employment prohibited, 49-1-102, 49-2-303, 49-3-201, 49-4-101.
Occupational safety and health, Title 50, ch. 71.
Safety in mines other than coal mines, Title 50, ch. 72.
Safety in coal mines, Title 50, ch. 73.
Safety in construction and operation of boilers and steam engines, Title 50, ch. 74.
Safety in operation of hoisting engines, Title 50, ch. 76.
Construction site health and safety, Title 50, ch. 77.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2942, 2943.
Committee report, Vol. II 670 through 673, 978, 982, 985, 987, 1076, 1107.

Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 699.

Debate — committee report, Trans. 2308 through 2328, 2333, 2340 through 2342, 2369 through 2372, 2601 through 2604.

Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2596, 2928, 2929.

Delegate proposal, Vol. I 220.

Final consideration, Trans. 2682 through 2684.

Text as adopted, Vol. II 1102.

Section 3. Institutions and assistance. (1) The state shall establish and support institutions and facilities as the public good may require, including homes which may be necessary and desirable for the care of veterans.

(2) Persons committed to any such institutions shall retain all rights except those necessarily suspended as a condition of commitment. Suspended rights are restored upon termination of the state's responsibility.

(3) The legislature may provide such economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services for those who, by reason of age, infirmities, or misfortune are determined by the legislature to be in need.

(4) The legislature may set eligibility criteria for programs and services, as well as for the duration and level of benefits and services.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 18, approved Nov. 8, 1988.

Cross-References

Declaration of rights, Art. II, Mont. Const.

Criminal justice policy — restoration of rights of convicted upon termination of state supervision, Art. II, sec. 28, Mont. Const.

Department of Public Health and Human Services, Title 2, ch. 15, part 22.

The Legislative Finance Act, Title 5, ch. 12.

County housing authorities, Title 7, ch. 15, part 21.

Municipal housing authorities, Title 7, ch. 15, parts 44 and 45.

Local government medical services and boarding homes for the aged, Title 7, ch. 34.

Montana Veterans' Homes, Title 10, ch. 2, part 4.

Property tax classification of residences of certain persons over 62 years of age, 15-6-134.

Tax exemption of property of institutions of purely public charity, 15-6-201.

Property tax exemption of community service building, 15-6-209.

Allocation of liquor license tax, 16-1-404.

Allocation of tax on wine, 16-1-411.

Contingent revolving accounts for state institutions, 17-2-201.

Endowments to state institutions, Title 17, ch. 3, part 10.

State Treasurer as treasurer of institutions, 17-6-105.

Bids required on work or contracts for institutions, 18-2-301.

Department of Administration to supervise procurement of goods and services for institutions, Title 18, ch. 4.

Sale of surplus property of institution, Title 18, ch. 6, part 1.

Exclusion from public retirement systems of inmates and patients, 19-3-403.

Assistance to incapacitated or indigent child to enable school attendance, 20-5-107.

Special education for exceptional children, Title 20, ch. 7, part 4.

Cooperation of state agencies in discovering children in need of special education, 20-7-404.

Out-of-state tuition for special education, 20-7-422.

Montana State School for the Deaf and Blind, Title 20, ch. 8.

Food service in state institutional schools, 20-10-206.

Research programs between University System and institutions, 20-25-108.

University fee waiver for students 62 years of age, 20-25-421.

Custodial care under Montana Youth Court Act, Title 41, ch. 5, part 18.

Criminal Justice Information Act of 1979, Title 44, ch. 5, part 1.

Mistreating prisoners, 45-5-204.

Custodial interference, 45-5-304.

Transfer of illegal articles or unauthorized communication to person subject to detention, 45-7-307.

Human Rights, Title 49.

Social Services and Institutions, Title 53.

Relationship of foster homes, boarding homes, and community residential facilities to zoning, 76-2-315, 76-2-411, 76-2-412.

Meat from animals destroyed for damaging property or confiscated — delivery to state institutions, 87-1-226, 87-1-512.

Residents of certain institutions and disabled persons allowed to fish without license, 87-2-802.

Home weatherization programs for persons on low and fixed incomes, Title 90, ch. 4, part 2.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2942, 2943.

Committee report, Vol. I 339, 453; Vol. II 627, 674, 675, 979, 983, 985, 988, 1076.

Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 699.

Debate — committee report, Trans. 2270 through 2300, 2304 through 2308.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2596 through 2598, 2928, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 105, 114, 273, 297, 310.
Final consideration, Trans. 2684 through 2687.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1102.

Section 4. Montana tobacco settlement trust fund. (1) The legislature shall dedicate not less than two-fifths of any tobacco settlement proceeds received on or after January 1, 2001, to a trust fund, nine-tenths of the interest and income of which may be appropriated. One-tenth of the interest and income derived from the trust fund on or after January 1, 2001, shall be deposited in the trust fund. The principal of the trust fund and one-tenth of the interest and income deposited in the trust fund shall remain forever inviolate unless appropriated by a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature.

(2) Appropriations of the interest, income, or principal from the trust fund shall be used only for tobacco disease prevention programs and state programs providing benefits, services, or coverage that are related to the health care needs of the people of Montana and may not be used for other purposes.

(3) Appropriations of the interest, income, or principal from the trust fund shall not be used to replace state or federal money used to fund tobacco disease prevention programs and state programs that existed on December 31, 1999, providing benefits, services, or coverage of the health care needs of the people of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 35, approved Nov. 7, 2000.

ARTICLE XIII
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section

1. Nonmunicipal corporations.
2. Consumer counsel.
3. Repealed.
4. Code of ethics.
5. Exemption laws.
6. Perpetuities.
7. Marriage.

Section 1. Nonmunicipal corporations. (1) Corporate charters shall be granted, modified, or dissolved only pursuant to general law.

(2) The legislature shall provide protection and education for the people against harmful and unfair practices by either foreign or domestic corporations, individuals, or associations.

(3) The legislature shall pass no law retrospective in its operations which imposes on the people a new liability in respect to transactions or considerations already passed.

Cross-References

Ex post facto, impairment of contracts, and irrevocable privileges, Art. II, sec. 31, Mont. Const.
Local and special legislation, Art. V, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Local government, Art. XI, Mont. Const.
Consumer Counsel, Art. XIII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
When laws retroactive, 1-2-109.
Effect of corporate instruments without seal, 1-4-205.
Governor may require inquiry into affairs or management of any corporation, 2-15-201.
Legislative Consumer Committee — Consumer Counsel, Title 5, ch. 15.
Certain political contributions from corporations prohibited, 13-35-227, 13-35-228.
Violation of Montana Alcoholic Beverage Code by corporation, 16-6-310.
Fire department relief associations, 19-18-102.
Actions against business association, 25-5-104.
Redemption of real property by shareholder, 25-13-801, 25-13-804.
Statute of limitations for actions against stockholders or board of directors of corporation, 27-2-211, 27-2-401.
Corporate shares subject to attachment, 27-18-402, 27-18-409 through 27-18-411.
Quo warranto proceedings, Title 27, ch. 28.
Contracts, Title 28.
Trade and Commerce, Title 30.
Securities regulation, Title 30, ch. 10.
Assumed business names, trademarks, and related rights, Title 30, ch. 13.
Unfair trade practices and consumer protection, Title 30, ch. 14.
Credit Transactions and Relationships, Title 31.

Assignment for benefit of creditors, 31-2-201.
Financial Institutions, Title 32.
Montana Consumer Loan Act, Title 32, ch. 5.
Insurance companies, Title 33.
Health service corporations, Title 33, ch. 30.
Corporations, Partnerships, and Associations, Title 35.
Criminal responsibility of corporations and members of corporations, 45-2-311, 45-2-312.
Discrimination prohibited generally, Title 49.
Consumer Product Safety Act of 1975, Title 50, ch. 30.
Public Utilities and Carriers, Title 69.
Notice of filing of federal tax lien against corporation, 71-3-204.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2943, 2944.
Committee report, Vol. II 666 through 669, 710 through 712, 977, 981, 985, 986, 1077.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 698, 699, 710 through 712.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2247 through 2269, 2398, 2924, 2925.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2595, 2929.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 172.
Final consideration, Trans. 2678 through 2682.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 2. Consumer counsel. The legislature shall provide for an office of consumer counsel which shall have the duty of representing consumer interests in hearings before the public service commission or any other successor agency. The legislature shall provide for the funding of the office of consumer counsel by a special tax on the net income or gross revenues of regulated companies.

Cross-References

Legislative Consumer Committee — Consumer Counsel, Title 5, ch. 15; Title 69, ch. 1, part 2.
Application for preliminary injunction by Consumer Counsel, 27-19-203.
Role of Consumer Counsel, Title 69, ch. 2, part 2.
Advice of consumers under energy emergency law, 90-4-306.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2943, 2944.
Committee report, Vol. II 980, 984, 989, 1077.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2400 through 2404.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2598 through 2601, 2929.
Final consideration, Trans. 2687, 2689.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 3. Repealed. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 16, approved Nov. 4, 1986.

Section 4. Code of ethics. The legislature shall provide a code of ethics prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interest for members of the legislature and all state and local officers and employees.

Cross-References

Standards of conduct generally, Title 2, ch. 2.
Code of ethics, Title 2, ch. 2, part 1.
Election and campaign practices and criminal provisions, Title 13, ch. 35.
Bribery and corrupt influence, Title 45, ch. 7, part 1.
Tampering with public records or information as criminal offense, 45-7-208.
Official misconduct, 45-7-401.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2943, 2944.
Committee report, Vol. II 866, 873, 875, 879, 884, 889, 1077.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. II 793.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 793 through 797.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1594, 2923 through 2925, 2929.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 164.
Final consideration, Trans. 1889 through 1891 [referred to as Article V (unicameral), section 17], 1908, 1909 [referred to as Article V (bicameral), section 16].
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 5. Exemption laws. The legislature shall enact liberal homestead and exemption laws.

Cross-References

Government property exemption, 2-9-318.
Exemption of funds and benefits of various retirement systems, 19-2-1004, 19-18-612, 19-19-504, 19-20-706.
Property subject to execution, Title 25, ch. 13, part 5.

Property exempt from execution, Title 25, ch. 13, part 6.
Redemption, Title 25, ch. 13, part 8.
Exempt property — bankruptcy proceeding, 31-2-106.
Exempt property — effect of assignment for benefit of creditors, 31-2-227.
Partnership property, 35-10-505.
Shares of cooperative association exempt, 35-15-404.
Nonliability of members of rural cooperatives, 35-18-302.
Exemption for cemetery association, 35-20-217.
Homesteads, Title 70, ch. 32.
Hail insurance benefits exempt, 80-2-245.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2943, 2944.
Committee report, Vol. I 526, 527; Vol. II 916, 921, 923, 927, 1077.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1147.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2188, 2924, 2926, 2929.
Final consideration, Trans. 2447, 2448.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 6. Perpetuities. No perpetuities shall be allowed except for charitable purposes.

Cross-References
Uniform statutory rule against perpetuities, Title 72, ch. 2, part 10.
Trusts, Title 72, ch. 38.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2943, 2944.
Committee report, Vol. I 526, 527; Vol. II 916, 921, 923, 927, 1077.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 530.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1147, 1148.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 2188, 2924, 2926, 2929.
Final consideration, Trans. 2448, 2449.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 7. Marriage. Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Const. Initiative No. 96, approved Nov. 2, 2004.

ARTICLE XIV
CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Section
1. Constitutional convention.
2. Initiative for constitutional convention.
3. Periodic submission.
4. Call of convention.
5. Convention expenses.
6. Oath, vacancies.
7. Convention duties.
8. Amendment by legislative referendum.
9. Amendment by initiative.
10. Petition signers.
11. Submission.

Article Cross-References
Popular sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Self-government, Art. II, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Provisions of Article III of Montana Constitution inapplicable, Art. III, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Elections, Art. IV, Mont. Const.; Title 13.
Secretary of State — custody of enrolled copy of constitution, 2-15-406.

Section 1. Constitutional convention. The legislature, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members, whether one or more bodies, may at any time submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend this constitution.

Cross-References
Legislature, Art. V, Mont. Const.; Title 5.
Periodic submission of question, Art. XIV, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 13-27-250.
Ballot issues, Title 13, ch. 27.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 352, 353, 356 through 360; Vol. II 851 through 854, 856 through 858, 1078.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 365.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 453 through 455, 470, 471.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1187 through 1189, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 150, 151, 158, 209 through 211, 226, 227.
Final consideration, Trans. 1868 through 1870, 1909, 1910.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 2. Initiative for constitutional convention. (1) The people may by initiative petition direct the secretary of state to submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend this constitution. The petition shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the legislative districts.

(2) The secretary of state shall certify the filing of the petition in his office and cause the question to be submitted at the next general election.

Cross-References
Legislative districting and apportionment, Art. V, sec. 14, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 1.
Petition signers, Art. XIV, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Times for holding general elections, 13-1-104.
Qualified voter, 13-1-111.
Ballot issues generally, Title 13, ch. 27.
Form of petition for initiative for Constitutional Convention, 13-27-236, 13-27-242.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 352, 356 through 358; Vol. II 851, 853, 856, 857, 1078.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 365.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 454 through 462, 471 through 476, 2698 through 2700.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1189, 2929.
Delegate proposal, Vol. I 209.
Final consideration, Trans. 1870, 1910, 1911.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 3. Periodic submission. If the question of holding a convention is not otherwise submitted during any period of 20 years, it shall be submitted as provided by law at the general election in the twentieth year following the last submission.

Cross-References
Periodic submission — ballot form, 13-27-250.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 352, 356, 358, 359; Vol. II 851, 853, 856, 857, 1078.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 365.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 454, 462 through 466 [referred to as section 3], 476 through 478.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1189, 1190, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 158, 209, 210, 227.
Final consideration, Trans. 1911, 1912.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 4. Call of convention. If a majority of those voting on the question answer in the affirmative, the legislature shall provide for the calling thereof at its next session. The number of delegates to the convention shall be the same as that of the larger body of the legislature. The qualifications of delegates shall be the same as the highest qualifications required for election to the legislature. The legislature shall determine whether the delegates may be nominated on a partisan or a non-partisan basis. They shall be elected at the same places and in the same districts as are the members of the legislative body determining the number of delegates.

Cross-References
Legislature, Art. V, Mont. Const.; Title 5.
Determination of result of election on ballot issue, 13-27-503.
Copy of approved issues to be sent to Legislative Services Division, 13-27-504.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 352, 356, 359, 360; Vol. II 851, 853, 854, 856, 857, 1078.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 365.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 454, 481 through 485 [referred to as section 5], 489, 490 [referred to as section 7].
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1190, 1191, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 150, 158, 210, 226, 227.
Final consideration, Trans. 1912 through 1914.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 5. Convention expenses. The legislature shall, in the act calling the convention, designate the day, hour, and place of its meeting, and fix and provide for the pay of its members and officers and the necessary expenses of the convention.

Cross-References
Call of convention, Art. XIV, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 353, 356, 357, 359, 360; Vol. II 851, 852, 854, 856, 857, 1078.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 365.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 454, 485 through 489 [referred to as section 6].
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1191, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 150, 210, 226, 227.
Final consideration, Trans. 1914, 1915.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1103.

Section 6. Oath, vacancies. Before proceeding, the delegates shall take the oath provided in this constitution. Vacancies occurring shall be filled in the manner provided for filling vacancies in the legislature if not otherwise provided by law.

Cross-References
Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Vacancies in Legislature, Art. V, sec. 7, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 2, part 4.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 353, 357, 360; Vol. II 852, 854, 856 through 858, 1078.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 365.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 454, 489, 490 [referred to as section 7].
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1191, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 150, 210, 226.
Final consideration, Trans. 1915, 1916.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1104.

Section 7. Convention duties. The convention shall meet after the election of the delegates and prepare such revisions, alterations, or amendments to the constitution as may be deemed necessary. They shall be submitted to the qualified electors for ratification or rejection as a whole or in separate articles or amendments as determined by the convention at an election appointed by the convention for that purpose not less than two months after adjournment. Unless so submitted and approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, no such revision, alteration, or amendment shall take effect.

Cross-References
Right of people to abolish or alter constitution, Art. II, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Time and place of meeting, Art. XIV, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Notice of special election, 13-1-108.
Qualified voter, 13-1-111.
Ballot issues, Title 13, ch. 27.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 353, 357, 360; Vol. II 852, 854, 856, 858, 1078, 1079.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 365.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 454, 490, 491, 526 through 528 [referred to as section 8].
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1191, 1192, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 150, 151, 210, 226, 227.
Final consideration, Trans. 1916, 1917.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1104.

Section 8. Amendment by legislative referendum. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the legislature. If adopted by an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of all the members thereof, whether one or more bodies, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election. If approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the amendment shall become a part of this constitution on the first day of July after certification of the election returns unless the amendment provides otherwise.

Cross-References

Right of people to alter constitution, Art. II, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; 13-27-236.
Legislature, Art. V, Mont. Const.; Title 5.
Definition of general election for purposes of ballot issues, 13-1-101.
Times for holding general elections, 13-1-104.
Qualified voter, 13-1-111.
Ballot issues generally, Title 13, ch. 27.
Effective date of amendments approved by the people, 13-27-105.
Verification of signatures by county officials — allocating voters following reapportionment, 13-27-303.
Publication of proposed amendments, 13-27-311.
Certification of ballot form, 13-27-501.
Determination of result of election on ballot issue, 13-27-503.
Copies of approved issues to be sent to Legislative Services Division, 13-27-504.
Statements of Attorney General on issues referred by Legislature, 13-27-605.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References

Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 353, 354, 357, 360 through 362; Vol. II 852, 854, 856, 858, 1079.
Cross-references, 1889 and 1972 Constitutions, Vol. I 365.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 495 through 501, 505, 533, 534 [referred to as section 11], 2711.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1192, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 119, 120, 210, 211, 257.
Final consideration, Trans. 1917, 1918.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1104.

Section 9. Amendment by initiative. (1) The people may also propose constitutional amendments by initiative. Petitions including the full text of the proposed amendment shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the legislative districts.

(2) The petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state. If the petitions are found to have been signed by the required number of electors, the secretary of state shall cause the amendment to be published as provided by law twice each month for two months previous to the next regular state-wide election.

(3) At that election, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors for approval or rejection. If approved by a majority voting thereon, it shall become a part of the constitution effective the first day of July following its approval, unless the amendment provides otherwise.

History: Amd. Const. Amend. No. 37, approved Nov. 5, 2002; amd. Const. Amend. No. 46, approved Nov. 3, 2020.

Compiler's Comments

2020 Amendment by Referendum: Constitutional Amendment No. 46, proposed by Ch. 216, L. 2019, and approved at the general election held November 3, 2020, in (1) at end of last sentence substituted "each of two-fifths of the legislative districts" for "each of at least one-half of the counties". Amendment effective November 3, 2020.

Signature Distribution Invalid — Former Language Restored: In Montana PIRG v. Johnson, 361 F. Supp. 2d 1222 (D.C. Mont. 2005), the federal district court declared that the Montana constitutional and statutory provisions composing the county distribution requirement for signatures violated the 14th amendment of the United States constitution and permanently enjoined Montana from enforcing those provisions. In 51 A.G. Op. 2 (2005), the attorney general held that the judicial decision invalidating the county distribution requirements for signatures to qualify an initiative petition for the ballot, as approved in Constitutional Amendments No. 37 and 38 and enacted in their implementing legislation, restores the language of the constitution and statutes as they existed before the approval of the invalid amendments. The former language read: "(1) The people may also propose constitutional amendments by initiative. Petitions including the full text of the proposed amendment shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the legislative districts."

Cross-References

Right of people to alter constitution, Art. II, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; 13-27-236.
Legislative districting and apportionment, Art. V, sec. 14, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 1.
Petition signers, Art. XIV, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Submission of more than one amendment, Art. XIV, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Times for holding general elections, 13-1-104.
Times for holding primary elections, 13-1-107.
Qualified voter, 13-1-111.
Ballot issues generally, Title 13, ch. 27.

Effective date of initiatives, 13-27-105.
Review of petition by Attorney General, 13-27-226.
Form of petition for initiative, 13-27-236, 13-27-241.
Publication of proposed amendments, 13-27-311.
Certification of ballot form, 13-27-501.
Determination of result of election on ballot issue, 13-27-503.
Copies of approved issues to be sent to Legislative Services Division, 13-27-504.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 354, 362, 363, 410; Vol. II 852, 854 through 856, 858, 1079.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 491, 492, 505 through 514 [referred to as section 13], 2702 through 2704, 2711, 2745.
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1192 through 1194, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 119, 120, 268, 277.
Final consideration, Trans. 1918, 1919.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1104.

Section 10. Petition signers. The number of qualified electors required for the filing of any petition provided for in this Article shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

Cross-References
Initiative for Constitutional Convention, Art. XIV, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Initiative for constitutional amendment, Art. XIV, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Times for general election, 13-1-104.
Election records to be maintained by Secretary of State, 13-1-204.
Report of state canvass to be filed in Office of Secretary of State, 13-15-506.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 354, 362; Vol. II 852, 855, 856, 858, 1079.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 514 [referred to as section 14].
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1194, 1195, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 119, 277.
Final consideration, Trans. 1919, 1920.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1104.

Section 11. Submission. If more than one amendment is submitted at the same election, each shall be so prepared and distinguished that it can be voted upon separately.

Cross-References
Amendment by legislative referendum, Art. XIV, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Amendment by initiative, Art. XIV, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Certification of ballot form, 13-27-501.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 2944, 2945.
Committee report, Vol. I 354, 363; Vol. II 852, 855, 856, 858, 1079.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 514 through 522, 534 [referred to as section 15].
Debate — style and drafting report, Trans. 1195, 1196, 2929.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 119, 120, 211.
Final consideration, Trans. 1920, 1921.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1104.

Done in open convention at the city of Helena, in the state of Montana, this twenty-second day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two.

Leo Graybill, Jr., President
Jean M. Bowman, Secretary
Magnus Aasheim
John H. Anderson, Jr.
Oscar L. Anderson
Harold Arbanas
Franklin Arness
Cedor B. Aronow
William H. Artz
Thomas M. Ask
Betty Babcock
Lloyd Barnard
Grace C. Bates
Don E. Belcher
Ben E. Berg, Jr.
E. M. Berthelson
Chet Blaylock
Virginia H. Blend
Geoffrey L. Brazier
Bruce M. Brown
Daphne Bugbee
William A. Burkhardt
Marjorie Cain
Bob Campbell
Jerome J. Cate
Richard J. Champoux
Lyman W. Choate
Max Conover
C. Louise Cross
Wade J. Dahood
Carl M. Davis
Douglas Delaney
Maurice Driscoll
Dave Drum
Dorothy Eck
Marian S. Erdmann
Leslie Eskildsen
Mark Etchart
James R. Felt
Donald R. Foster
Noel D. Furlong
J. C. Garlington
E. S. Gysler
Otto T. Habedank
Rod Hanson
R. S. Hanson
Gene Harbaugh
Paul K. Harlow
George Harper
Daniel W. Harrington
George B. Heliker
David L. Holland
Arnold W. Jacobsen
George H. James
Torrey B. Johnson
Thomas F. Joyce
A. W. Kamhoot
Robert Lee Kelleher
John H. Leuthold
Jerome T. Loendorf
Peter "Pete" Lorello
Joseph H. McCarvel
Russell C. McDonough
Mike McKeon
Charles B. McNeil
Charles H. Mahoney
Rachell K. Mansfield
Fred J. Martin
J. Mason Melvin
Lyle R. Monroe
Marshall Murray
Robert B. Noble
Richard A. Nutting
Mrs. Thomas Payne
Catherine Pemberton
Donald Rebal
Arlyne E. Reichert
Mrs. Mae Nan Robinson
Richard B. Roeder
George W. Rollins
Miles Romney
Sterling Rygg
Don Scanlin
John M. Schiltz
Henry Siderius
Clark E. Simon
Carman M. Skari
M. Lynn Sparks
Lucile Speer
R. J. Studer, Sr.
Mrs. John Justin (Veronica) Sullivan
William H. Swanberg
John H. Toole
Mrs. Edith M. Van Buskirk
Robert Vermillion
Roger A. Wagner
Jack K. Ward
Margaret S. Warden
Archie O. Wilson
Robert F. Woodmansey

TRANSITION SCHEDULE

Transition Schedule. The following provisions shall remain part of this Constitution until their terms have been executed. Once each year the attorney general shall review the following provisions and certify to the secretary of state which, if any, have been executed. Any provisions so certified shall thereafter be removed from this Schedule and no longer published as part of this Constitution.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3013, 3014.
Committee report, Vol. II 1080, 1081.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2596, 2828, 2863, 2878, 2946 through 2948, 2988, 2997 through 3004, 3008.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1104.

Section 1. Accelerated effective date. Executed (certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3014, 3015.
Committee report (style and drafting), Vol. II 1082.
Debate, Trans. 3004, 3006 through 3008.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1108.

Section 2. Delayed effective date. Executed (certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3014, 3015.
Committee report, Vol. II 1082.
Debate, Trans. 1570, 1571, 3004, 3005, 3007, 3008.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1108.

Section 3. Prospective operation of declaration of rights. Any rights, procedural or substantive, created for the first time by Article II shall be prospective and not retroactive.

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3014, 3015.
Committee report, Vol. II 1082.
Debate, Trans. 3005, 3007, 3008.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1108.

Section 4. Terms of judiciary. Executed (certified by letter, December 20, 1978).

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3014, 3015.
Committee report, Vol. II 1082.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1115, 1116, 3005, 3007, 3008.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 88, 206.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1108.

Section 5. Terms of legislators. Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3014, 3015.
Committee report, Vol. II 1082.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 1570, 1571, 1591 through 1593, 1629, 3005, 3007, 3008.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1108.

Section 6. General transition. (1) The rights and duties of all public bodies shall remain as if this Constitution had not been adopted with the exception of such changes as are contained in this Constitution. All laws, ordinances, regulations, and rules of court not contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Constitution shall remain in force, until they shall expire by their own limitation or shall be altered or repealed pursuant to this Constitution.

(2) The validity of all public and private bonds, debts, and contracts, and of all suits, actions, and rights of action, shall continue as if no change had taken place.

(3) Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

Constitutional Convention Transcript Cross-References
Adoption, Trans. 3014, 3015.
Committee report, Vol. II 1082, 1083.
Debate — committee report, Trans. 2776, 3005, 3007, 3008.
Delegate proposals, Vol. I 92, 93, 241, 249.
Text as adopted, Vol. II 1108, 1109.

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CHAPTER 1

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Part 1
Meaning of Law

1-1-101. Definition of law. "Law" is a solemn expression of the will of the supreme power of the state.

History: En. Sec. 5150, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3550, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5670, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4466; re-en. Sec. 5670, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 12-101.

1-1-102. How expressed. The will of the supreme power is expressed by:

(1) the constitution;

(2) statutes.

History: En. Sec. 5151, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3551, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5671, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4467; re-en. Sec. 5671, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 12-102.

1-1-103. Laws — written or unwritten. Laws, whether organic or ordinary, are either written or unwritten.

History: En. Sec. 3183, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7901, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10545, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1895; re-en. Sec. 10545, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1001-7.

1-1-104. Written law defined. A written law is that which is promulgated in writing and of which a record is in existence.

History: En. Sec. 3184, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7902, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10546, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1896; re-en. Sec. 10546, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1001-8.

1-1-105. Constitution and statutes. The organic law is the constitution of government and is altogether written. Other written laws are denominated statutes. The written law of this state is therefore contained in its constitution and statutes and in the constitution and statutes of the United States.

History: En. Sec. 3185, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7903, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10547, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1897; re-en. Sec. 10547, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1001-9.

1-1-106. Public and private statutes. Statutes are public or private. A private statute is one which concerns only certain designated individuals and affects only their private rights. All other statutes are public, in which are included statutes creating or affecting corporations.

History: En. Sec. 3186, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7904, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10548, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1898; re-en. Sec. 10548, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1001-10.

Cross-References

Special laws prohibited, Art. II, sec. 31, Mont. Const.; Art. V, sec. 11(5), Mont. Const.; Art. V, sec. 12, Mont. Const.

1-1-107. Unwritten law defined. Unwritten law is the law that is not promulgated and recorded, as mentioned in 1-1-104, but that is, nevertheless, observed and administered in the courts of the country. It has no certain repository but is collected from the reports of the decisions of the courts and treatises of learned people.

History: En. Sec. 3187, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7905, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10549, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1899; re-en. Sec. 10549, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1001-11; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-1-108. Common law — applicability of. In this state there is no common law in any case where the law is declared by statute. But where not so declared, if the same is applicable and of a general nature and not in conflict with the statutes, the common law shall be the law and rule of decision.

History: En. Sec. 3452, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8060, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10703, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10703, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 12-104.

1-1-109. Common law of England — when rule of decision. The common law of England, so far as it is not repugnant to or inconsistent with the constitution of the United States or the constitution or laws of this state, is the rule of decision in all the courts of this state.

History: En. p. 356, Bannack Stat.; re-en. p. 388, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 144, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 201, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 5152, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3552, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5672, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4468; re-en. Sec. 5672, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 12-103.

Cross-References

Statutes in derogation of common law — liberal construction, 1-2-103.

Part 2

General Definitions of Terms Used in Code

Part Cross-References

See "Words and Phrases Defined in Code", MCA General Index.

1-1-201. Terms of wide applicability. (1) Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated:

(a) "Female" means a member of the human species who, under normal development, has XX chromosomes and produces or would produce relatively large, relatively immobile gametes, or eggs, during her life cycle and has a reproductive and endocrine system oriented around the production of those gametes. An individual who would otherwise fall within this definition, but for a biological or genetic condition, is female.

(b) "Male" means a member of the human species who, under normal development, has XY chromosomes and produces or would produce small, mobile gametes, or sperm, during his life cycle and has a reproductive and endocrine system oriented around the production of those gametes. An individual who would otherwise fall within this definition, but for a biological or genetic condition, is male.

(c) "Oath" includes an affirmation or declaration.

(d) "Person" includes a corporation or other entity as well as a natural person.

(e) "Several" means two or more.

(f) "Sex" means the organization of the body parts and gametes for reproduction in human beings and other organisms. In human beings, there are exactly two sexes, male and female, with two corresponding types of gametes. The sexes are determined by the biological and genetic indication of male or female, including sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex chromosomes, gonads, and nonambiguous internal and external genitalia present at birth, without regard to an individual's psychological, behavioral, social, chosen, or subjective experience of gender.

(g) "State", when applied to the different parts of the United States, includes the District of Columbia and the territories.

(h) "United States" includes the District of Columbia and the territories.

(2) Wherever the word "man" or "men" or a word that includes the syllable "man" or "men" in combination with other syllables, such as "workman", appears in this code, the word or syllable includes "woman" or "women" unless the context clearly indicates a contrary intent and unless the subject matter of the statute relates clearly and necessarily to a specific sex only.

(3) Whenever the term "heretofore" occurs in any statute, it must be construed to mean any time previous to the day the statute takes effect. Whenever the word "hereafter" occurs, it must be construed to mean the time after the statute containing the term takes effect.

History: (1)En. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; Sec. 19-103, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 12-216 by Sec. 61, Ch. 535, L. 1975; Sec. 12-217, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 4670, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6232, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8782, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8782, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 19-104, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 12-217, 19-103(part), (6), (7), (14), (27), (29), 19-104; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 685, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

General definitional rules — verb tense, gender, and number, 1-2-105.

1-1-202. Terms relating to procedure and the judiciary. Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated:

(1) "Deposition" means a written declaration under oath or affirmation, made upon notice to the adverse party for the purpose of enabling the adverse party to attend and cross-examine.

(2) "Judicial officers" means justices of the supreme court, judges of the district courts, justices of the peace, municipal judges, and city judges.

(3) "Judicial record" means the record of official entry of the proceedings in a court of justice or of the official act of a judicial officer in an action or special proceeding.

(4) "Oral examination" means an examination in the presence of the jury or tribunal that is to decide the fact or act upon it or the spoken testimony of the witness being heard by the jury or tribunal.

(5) "Process" means a writ or summons issued in the course of judicial proceedings.

(6) "Registered mail", for purposes of legal notification, means registered or certified mail.

(7) "Testify" means every mode of oral statement under oath or affirmation.

(8) "Writ" means an order in writing issued in the name of the state or of a court or judicial officer.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; Sec. 19-103, R.C.M. 1947; (1)En. Sec. 3322, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7989, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10633, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 2004; re-en. Sec. 10633, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-1601-3, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3192, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7910, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10554, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1904; re-en. Sec. 10554, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-1001-16, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. Sec. 3323, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7990, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10634, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 2005; Sec. 10634, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-1601-4, R.C.M. 1947; (7)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1967; Sec. 19-122, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part), (9), (10), (13), (30), (31), (33), 19-122, 93-1001-16, 93-1601-3, 93-1601-4; amd. Sec. 248, Ch. 800, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-1-203. Terms relating to instruments and other writings. Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated:

(1) "Affidavit" means a sworn written declaration made before an officer authorized to administer oaths or an unsworn written declaration made under penalty of perjury as provided in 1-6-105.

(2) "Execution" of an instrument means subscribing and delivering it, with or without affixing a seal.

(3) "Folio", when used as a measure for computing fees, means 100 words, counting every two letters or numbers necessarily used as a word. Any portion of a folio, when in the whole paper there is not a complete folio and when there is an excess over the last folio exceeding one-half, may be computed as a folio.

(4) "Printing" means the act of reproducing a design on a surface by any process.

(5) "Signature" or "subscription" includes the mark of a person who cannot write if the person's name is written near the mark by another person who also signs that person's own name as a witness.

(6) "Subscribing witness" means a person who sees a writing executed or hears it acknowledged and at the request of the party signs the person's name as a witness.

(7) "Writing" includes printing.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; Sec. 19-103, R.C.M. 1947; (1)En. Sec. 3224, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7937, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10581, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10581, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-1101-5, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4618, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3151, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4899, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4899, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 25-215, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 100, L. 1973; Sec. 19-103.1, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. Sec. 3226, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7939, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10583, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10583, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-1101-7, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part), (28), (32), 19-103.1, 25-215, 93-1101-5, 93-1101-7; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Printing and legal notices, Title 18, ch. 7.

1-1-204. Terms denoting state of mind. Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated:

(1) "Corruptly" means a wrongful design to acquire or cause some pecuniary or other advantage to the person guilty of the act or omission referred to or to some other person.

(2) "Knowingly" means only a knowledge that the facts exist which bring the act or omission within the provisions of this code. It does not require any knowledge of the unlawfulness of the act or omission.

(3) "Malice" and "maliciously" mean a wish to vex, annoy, or injure another person or an intent to do a wrongful act, established either by proof or presumption of law.

(4) "Neglect", "negligence", "negligent", and "negligently" mean a want of the attention to the nature or probable consequences of the act or omission that a prudent person would ordinarily give in acting in the person's own concerns.

(5) "Willfully", when applied to the intent with which an act is done or omitted, means a purpose or willingness to commit the act or make the omission referred to. It does not require any intent to violate the law, to injure another, or to acquire any advantage.

History: En. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part), (19) thru (23); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Liability for negligent and willful acts, 27-1-701.

Criminal law state of mind and other definitions, Title 45, ch. 2, part 1.

1-1-205. Terms relating to property and decedents' estates. Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated:

(1) "Personal property" means money, goods, chattels, things in action, and evidences of debt.

(2) "Pledge", "mortgage", "conditional sale", "lien", "assignment", and like terms, when used in referring to a security interest in personal property, include a corresponding type of security interest under the Uniform Commercial Code—Secured Transactions.

(3) "Property" means real and personal property.

(4) "Real property" means lands, tenements, hereditaments, and possessory title to public lands.

(5) "Will" includes codicils.

History: En. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part), (1), (2), (3), (8), (26).

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code — secured transactions, Title 30, ch. 9A.
Property, Title 70.
Mortgages, Pledges, and Liens, Title 71.
Estates, Trusts, and Fiduciary Relationships, Title 72.

1-1-206. Terms relating to obligations and transactions. Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated:

(1) "Customary" means according to usage.

(2) "Third persons" means all persons who are not parties to the obligation or transaction concerning which the phrase is used.

(3) "Usage" means a reasonable and lawful public custom concerning transactions of the same nature as those which are to be affected thereby, existing at the place where the obligation is to be performed, and either known to the parties or so well established, general, and uniform that the parties must be presumed to have acted with reference thereto.

(4) "Usual" means according to usage.

History: En. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part), (15) thru (18).

Cross-References

Course of dealing and usage of trade, 30-1-205.

1-1-207. Miscellaneous terms. Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated:

(1) "Bribe" means anything of value or advantage, present or prospective, or any promise or undertaking to give anything of value or advantage, that is asked, given, or accepted with a corrupt intent to unlawfully influence the person to whom it is given in the person's action, vote, or opinion in any public or official capacity.

(2) "Peace officer" has the meaning as defined in 46-1-202.

(3) (a) "Recidivism" means a circumstance in which any sentence is imposed for a new felony or in which a judge or the board of pardons and parole determines that a person convicted of a felony has violated the person's terms of probation or parole within 5 years of the imposition of a sentence for a previous felony conviction.

(b) The term does not include a violation that is a compliance violation, as defined in 46-23-1001.

(4) "Vessel", when used in reference to shipping, includes ships of all kinds, steamboats and steamships, canal boats, and every structure adapted to be navigated from place to place.

History: En. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part), (11), (12), (24); amd. Sec. 249, Ch. 800, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 491, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 641, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 641, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Cross-References

Definitions of documented vessel, motorboat, and vessel, 23-2-502.

1-1-208. Terms relating to legislature. (1) Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated:

(a) "Majority leader" means the leader of the majority party, elected by the caucus as provided in 5-2-221.

(b) "Majority party" means the party with the most members in a house of the legislature, subject to subsection (2).

(c) "Minority leader" means the leader of the minority party, elected by the caucus as provided in 5-2-221.

(d) "Minority party" means the party with the second most members in a house of the legislature, subject to subsection (2).

(2) If there are an equal number of members of each party in a house of the legislature, then the majority party is the party of the president of the senate or the speaker of the house and the minority party is the other party with an equal number of members.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007.

1-1-209 through 1-1-213 reserved.

1-1-214. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 17, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1987.

1-1-215. Residence — rules for determining. Every person has, in law, a residence. In determining the place of residence, the following rules are to be observed:

(1) It is the place where a person remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose and to which the person returns in seasons of repose.

(2) There may be only one residence. If a person claims a residence within Montana for any purpose, then that location is the person's residence for all purposes unless there is a specific statutory exception.

(3) A residence cannot be lost until another is gained.

(4) The residence of an unmarried minor is:

(a) the residence of the minor's parents;

(b) if one of the parents is deceased or the parents do not share the same residence, the residence of the parent having legal custody;

(c) if neither parent has legal custody, the residence of the legal guardian or custodian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(d) if the conditions in 20-5-502 are met, the residence of the caretaker relative.

(5) In the case of a controversy, the district court has jurisdiction over which residence is the residence of an unmarried minor.

(6) Except as provided in Title 20, chapter 5, part 5, and this section, the residence of an unmarried minor who has a parent living cannot be changed by either the minor's own act or an act of the minor's guardian.

(7) The residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent.

History: En. Sec. 72, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 32, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 33, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 52; re-en. Sec. 33, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 164, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 83-303; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 442, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 211, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Citizenship, Title 1, ch. 1, part 4.

Residence for registration and voting, 13-1-112.

Resident defined for purposes of bidding on public contracts, 18-1-103.

Presumptions and rules as to domicile for university students, 20-25-503.

Residence and resident defined for purpose of issuing resident fishing and hunting licenses, 87-2-102.

See also "residence", "residency", and "resident", Words and Phrases Defined in Code, MCA General Index.

1-1-216. Legal holidays and business days. (1) The following are legal holidays in the state of Montana:

(a) Each Sunday;

(b) New Year's Day, January 1;

(c) Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the third Monday in January;

(d) Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays, the third Monday in February;

(e) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;

(f) Independence Day, July 4;

(g) Labor Day, the first Monday in September;

(h) Columbus Day, the second Monday in October;

(i) Veterans' Day, November 11;

(j) Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November;

(k) Christmas Day, December 25;

(l) State general election day.

(2) (a) If any of the holidays in subsection (1)(b) through (1)(l) fall on a Sunday, the Monday following is a holiday.

(b) If any of the holidays in subsection (1)(b) through (1)(l) fall on a Saturday, the Friday preceding is a holiday.

(c) All other days are business days.

History: En. Sec. 10, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 10, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Secs. 10-11; re-en. Sec. 10, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 32, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 19-107(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 431, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Arbor Day as official day of observance, 1-1-225.
State employees — holidays — observance when falling on employee's day off — floating holiday, 2-18-603.
School holidays, 20-1-305 through 20-1-307.
Bank holidays, 32-1-481.

1-1-217. Notice — actual and constructive. (1) Notice is:

(a) actual whenever it consists of express information of a fact;

(b) constructive whenever it is imputed by law.

(2) Each person who has actual notice of circumstances sufficient to put a prudent person upon inquiry as to a particular fact has constructive notice of the fact itself in all cases in which, by prosecuting the inquiry, the person might have learned the facts.

History: (1)En. Sec. 4666, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6228, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8780, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 18; Based on Field Civ. C. Secs. 2009, 2010; re-en. Sec. 8780, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 309, L. 1977; Sec. 19-105, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4667, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6229, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8781, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 19; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 2011; re-en. Sec. 8781, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 19-106; R.C.M. 1947, 19-105, 19-106; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-1-218. Words giving joint authority. Words giving a joint authority to three or more public officers or other persons are construed as giving such authority to a majority of them unless it is otherwise expressed in the act giving the authority.

History: En. Sec. 14, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 14, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 14, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 15; re-en. Sec. 14, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 19-101.

1-1-219. Relationship by affinity. (1) Unless the context requires otherwise, in this code "affinity" means the relation that one spouse has, by virtue of the marriage, to blood relatives of the other. Therefore, a person has the same relation by affinity to that person's spouse's blood relatives as that person's spouse has to them by consanguinity and vice versa.

(2) Degrees of relationship by affinity are computed in the same manner as degrees of relationship by consanguinity.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the term "affinity" includes the relation of husband and wife. Husband and wife are considered to be related by affinity in the first degree.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Representation, 72-2-116.

1-1-220 through 1-1-223 reserved.

1-1-224. Observance of right to keep and bear arms. The week beginning the first Monday in March is an official week of observance to commemorate Montana's valued heritage of the right of each person to keep and bear arms in the defense of the person's home, person, or property or in aid of civil power. During this week, all Montanans are urged to reflect on their right to keep and bear arms and to celebrate this right in lawful ways.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Right to bear arms, Art. II, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Civilian control of military, Art. II, sec. 32, Mont. Const.

1-1-225. Arbor Day as official day of observance. (1) To increase public awareness of the vital importance of conserving and propagating trees and forests to the everyday life of Montana citizens, the last Friday in April is designated Arbor Day and an official day of observance. On this day, there may be special observances and exercises throughout the state to celebrate and emphasize the importance of cultivating forest, fruit, and ornamental trees.

(2) The governor shall encourage the observances and exercises described in this section and, by proclamation, call the public's attention to the importance of the state's forest resources.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1989.

1-1-226. Official observance of Montana's hunting heritage. The week beginning the third Monday in September is an official week of observance in Montana to commemorate this state's valued heritage of hunting game animals. During this week, all Montanans are urged to:

(1) reflect on hunting as an expression of our culture and heritage;

(2) acknowledge that it is our community of hunters who have made the greatest contributions to the establishment of current game animal populations; and

(3) celebrate this culture and heritage in all lawful ways.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 455, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Fish and Wildlife, Title 87.

1-1-227. Bill of rights day. There is established a bill of rights day for the state of Montana. The bill of rights day is December 15 of each year to commemorate the day in 1791 in which three-fourths of the states ratified the bill of rights as part of the U.S. constitution.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 477, L. 2007.

1-1-228. American Indian heritage day. There is established an American Indian heritage day for the state of Montana. American Indian heritage day is the last Friday in September of each year and is recognized as a day of observance to commemorate this state's American Indians and their valued heritage and culture. On this day, all Montanans are urged to:

(1) reflect on American Indian culture and heritage; and

(2) celebrate American Indians and their culture and heritage in all lawful ways.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 2009.

1-1-229. State teen driver safety day. (1) To increase public awareness and promote teen driver safety, the third Tuesday in October is designated as teen driver safety day and is an official day of observance.

(2) All Montanans are encouraged to participate in special observances and exercises throughout the state on this day in order to educate teens about the fatal consequences of distractions while driving and to promote teen driver safety. The governor and the office of public instruction may officially recognize and encourage the observances and exercises described in this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 2009.

1-1-230. Welcome home Vietnam veterans day. There is established a welcome home Vietnam veterans day for the state of Montana. The welcome home Vietnam veterans day is March 30 of each year and commemorates the day in 1973 when all combat units and combat support units arrived home from the former South Vietnam.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 2011.

1-1-231. Juneteenth national freedom day. The third Saturday in June is designated as Juneteenth national freedom day to commemorate African-American emancipation from slavery, to celebrate the freedom won by people in many countries, and to rededicate ourselves to the cause of liberty.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 2017.

1-1-232. Montana prescription drug take-back day. (1) The day in October designated as national prescription drug take-back day is designated as Montana prescription drug take-back day in order to provide an annual day for citizens to properly dispose of unused and unneeded prescription drugs, to raise awareness about the consequences of failure to properly dispose of prescription drugs, and to educate citizens on proper methods of prescription drug disposal.

(2) On this day, local communities, businesses, and other entities throughout the state are encouraged to coordinate on special exercises to emphasize the importance of proper prescription drug use and disposal.

(3) Observances and exercises described in this section need not be limited solely to prescription drugs.

(4) The governor and attorney general may officially recognize and encourage the observances and exercises described in this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 2019.

Part 3
Rules Concerning Time

1-1-301. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply in the Montana Code Annotated:

(1) A "day" is the period of time between any midnight and the midnight following.

(2) "Daytime" is the period of time between sunrise and sunset, and "nighttime" is the period of time between sunset and sunrise.

(3) "Month" means a calendar month.

(4) A "week" consists of 7 consecutive days.

(5) "Year" means a calendar year.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; Sec. 19-103, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3143, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2030, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4280, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3258; re-en. Sec. 4280, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 90-404, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 3144, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2031, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4281, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3259; re-en. Sec. 4281, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 90-405, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. Sec. 3145, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2032, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4282, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3260; re-en. Sec. 4282, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 90-406, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part), (4), (5), 90-404, 90-405, 90-406.

1-1-302. Computation of time — what calendar used. Time is computed according to the Gregorian or new style, and January 1 in every year passed since 1752 or to come must be reckoned as the first day of the year.

History: En. Sec. 3140, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2027, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4277, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3255; re-en. Sec. 4277, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 90-401.

1-1-303. Leap year. Except the year 1900, every fourth year which, by usage in this state, is considered a leap year is a leap year consisting of 366 days.

History: En. Sec. 3141, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2028, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4278, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3256; re-en. Sec. 4278, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 90-402.

1-1-304. Computation of fractions of a year. Fractions of a year are computed by the number of months; thus, half a year is 6 months.

History: En. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part).

1-1-305. Computation of time — when fractions of a day disregarded. Fractions of a day are disregarded in computations which include more than 1 day and involve no questions of priority.

History: En. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part).

1-1-306. Computation of time — which days counted. The time in which any act provided by law is to be done is computed by excluding the first day and including the last unless the last day is a holiday, and then it is also excluded.

History: En. Sec. 430, p. 130, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 501, p. 233, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 578, p. 153, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 519, p. 176, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 519, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 536, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 3459, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8067, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10707, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 12; re-en. Sec. 10707, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 90-407.

1-1-307. Postponement of day appointed for an action when it falls on a holiday or Saturday. Whenever any act of a secular nature, other than a work of necessity or mercy, is appointed by law or contract to be performed upon a particular day, which day falls upon a holiday or a Saturday, such act may be performed upon the next business day with the same effect as if it had been performed upon the day appointed.

History: En. Sec. 12, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 12, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 12, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 13; re-en. Sec. 12, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 19-109; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 69, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Legal holidays, 1-1-216.

Part 4
Citizenship

1-1-401. People defined. The people, as a political body, consist of:

(1) electors;

(2) citizens not electors.

History: En. Sec. 70, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 30, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 31, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 50; re-en. Sec. 31, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-301.

Cross-References

Qualified elector defined, Art. IV, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Elector defined, 13-1-101.

1-1-402. Citizens defined. The citizens of the state are:

(1) all persons born in this state and residing within it, except the children of transient aliens;

(2) all persons born out of this state who are citizens of the United States and residing within this state.

History: En. Sec. 71, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 31, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 32, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 51; re-en. Sec. 32, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-302.

Cross-References

Rules for determining residency, 1-1-215.

1-1-403. Allegiance. Allegiance is the obligation of fidelity and obedience which every citizen owes to the state.

History: En. Sec. 81, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 34, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 35, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 55; re-en. Sec. 35, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-402.

1-1-404. Allegiance — how renounced. Allegiance may be renounced by a change of residence.

History: En. Sec. 82, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 35, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 36, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 56; re-en. Sec. 36, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-403.

1-1-405. Persons not citizens. Persons in this state not its citizens are either:

(1) citizens of other states; or

(2) aliens.

History: En. Sec. 83, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 36, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 37, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 57; re-en. Sec. 37, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-404.

1-1-406 through 1-1-410 reserved.

1-1-411. Certain state services denied to illegal aliens. (1) To the extent allowed by federal law and the Montana constitution and except as provided in 44-4-1502, a state agency may not provide a state service to an illegal alien and shall comply with the requirements of this section.

(2) To determine whether an applicant for a state service is an illegal alien, the agency may use the systematic alien verification for entitlements program provided by the United States department of homeland security or any other lawful method of making the determination.

(3) A state agency shall notify appropriate personnel in immigration and customs enforcement under the United States department of homeland security or its successor of any illegal alien applying for a state service.

(4) An agency shall require a person seeking a state service to provide proof of United States citizenship or legal alien status.

(5) A state agency shall execute any written agreement required by federal law to implement this section.

(6) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Agency" means a department, board, commission, committee, authority, or office of the legislative or executive branches of state government, including a unit of the Montana university system.

(b) "Illegal alien" means an individual who is not a citizen of the United States and who has unlawfully entered or remains unlawfully in the United States.

(c) "State service" means a payment of money, the grant of a state license or permit, or the provision of another valuable item or service under any of the following programs and provisions of law:

(i) employment with a state agency;
(ii) qualification as a student in the university system for the purposes of a public education, as provided in 20-25-502;
(iii) student financial assistance, as provided in Title 20, chapter 26;
(iv) issuance of a state license or permit to practice a trade or profession, as provided in Title 37;
(v) unemployment insurance benefits, as provided in Title 39, chapter 51;
(vi) vocational rehabilitation, as provided in Title 53, chapter 7;
(vii) services for victims of crime, as provided in Title 53, chapter 9;
(viii) services for the physically disabled, as provided in Title 53, chapter 19, parts 3 and 4;
(ix) a grant, as provided in Title 90.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 285, L. 2015.**

Part 5
State Symbols — Official Designations

1-1-501. Great seal. The great seal of the state is as follows: a central group representing a plow and a miner's pick and shovel; upon the right, a representation of the Great Falls of the Missouri River; upon the left, mountain scenery; and underneath, the words "Oro y Plata". The seal must be 2½ inches in diameter and surrounded by these words, "The Great Seal of the State of Montana".

History: **En. Sec. 1, p. 42, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 1130, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 430, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 526, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 526, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 19-111.**

1-1-502. State flag. There is hereby established a state flag of Montana. The state flag of Montana shall be a flag having a blue field with a representation of the great seal of the state in the center and with golden fringe along the upper and lower borders of the flag; the same being the flag borne by the 1st Montana Infantry, U.S.V., in the Spanish-American War, with the exception of the device, "1st Montana Infantry, U.S.V."; and above the great seal of the state shall be the word "MONTANA" in helvetica bold letters of gold color equal in height to one-tenth of the total vertical measurement of the blue field.

History: **En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 42, L. 1905; re-en. Secs. 432, 433, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 528, 529, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Secs. 528, 529, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 19-113, 19-114; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 49, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 1985.**

1-1-503. State floral emblem. The flower known as Lewisia rediviva (bitterroot) shall be the floral emblem of the state of Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 3282, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2097, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 530, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 530, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 19-115.**

1-1-504. State bird. The bird known as the western meadowlark, Sturnella neglecta (Audubon), as preferred by a referendum vote of Montana school children, shall be designated and declared to be the official bird of the state of Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 530.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 19-116.**

1-1-505. State gem stones. The sapphire and the Montana agate are the official Montana state gem stones.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 19-123.**

1-1-506. State grass. The grass known as bluebunch wheatgrass, Agropyron spicatum (pursh), shall be designated and declared to be the official grass of the state of Montana.

History: **En. 19-124 by Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 19-124.**

1-1-507. State fish. The blackspotted cutthroat trout, Salmo clarki, is the official Montana state fish.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 19-125.**

1-1-508. State animal. The grizzly bear, Ursus arctos horribilis, as preferred by a vote of Montana schoolchildren, is the official Montana state animal.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 1983.**

1-1-509. State fossil. The duck-billed dinosaur Maiasaura peeblesorum is the official Montana state fossil.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1985.**

1-1-510. English as official and primary language of state and local governments. (1) English is the official and primary language of:

(a) the state and local governments;

(b) government officers and employees acting in the course and scope of their employment; and

(c) government documents and records.

(2) A state statute, local government ordinance, or state or local government policy may not require a specific foreign language to be used by government officers and employees acting in the course and scope of their employment or for government documents and records or require a specific foreign language to be taught in a school as a student's primary language.

(3) This section is not intended to violate the federal or state constitutional right to freedom of speech of government officers and employees acting in the course and scope of their employment. This section does not prohibit a government officer or employee acting in the course and scope of employment from using a language other than English, including use in a government document or record, if the employee chooses, or prohibit the teaching of other languages in a school for general educational purposes or as secondary languages.

(4) This section is not intended to limit the use of any other language by a tribal government. A school district and a tribe, by mutual agreement, may provide for the instruction of students that recognizes the cultural identity of Native American children and promotes the use of a common language for communication.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Freedom of speech, Art. II, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

Educational goals and duties — Indian cultural heritage, Art. X, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

1-1-511. State ballad. The song "Montana Melody", written by Carleen Harvey and LeGrande Harvey, is the official state ballad of the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1983.

1-1-512. State Vietnam veterans' memorial. (1) The memorial located in Rose Park, Missoula, Montana, dedicated to the individuals who served the United States in the Republic of Vietnam, is the official state Vietnam veterans' memorial.

(2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation are directed to reference the location of the official state Vietnam veterans' memorial in Rose Park, Missoula, Montana, on official state maps.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 53, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-1-513. State arboretum. The campus of the university of Montana-Missoula, is the state arboretum.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 1991; amd. sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995.

1-1-514. State butterfly. The mourning cloak, Nymphalis antiopa, is the official Montana state butterfly.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 2001.

1-1-515. Montana medal of valor established. (1) The governor is authorized to present, in the name of the people of Montana, a medal to be known as the Montana medal of valor, bearing a suitable inscription and ribbon, to any citizen of the state who displays extraordinary courage in a situation threatening the lives of one or more people.

(2) The governor may award the Montana medal of valor to anyone whose behavior, in the governor's judgment, merits the recognition. The award must be made in a public ceremony at the recipient's city or town of residence or at a city or town designated by the recipient, except under the circumstances indicated in subsection (3).

(3) If the recipient of the medal of valor dies before the medal is awarded, the governor shall present the medal to the recipient's spouse, eldest surviving child, eldest surviving sibling, or either parent or to a person designated by one of these. If the medal is presented to a person who is not a resident of Montana, the award ceremony must be held at the state capitol in Helena.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 537, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-1-516. State Korean war veterans' memorial — Butte. (1) The Korean war veterans' memorial located in Stodden Park, Butte, Montana, dedicated to the individuals who served the United States in the Republic of Korea, is an official state Korean war veterans' memorial.

(2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation are directed to reference the location of the state Korean war veterans' memorial on official state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-1-517. State Korean war veterans' memorial — Missoula. (1) The Missoula memorial rose garden, located in Missoula, Montana, is officially designated as a state Korean war veterans' memorial.

(2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the Missoula memorial rose garden on official state maps as a state Korean war veterans' memorial.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 296, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 2001.

1-1-518. State veterans' memorial rose garden. (1) The Missoula memorial rose garden, located in Missoula, Montana, is officially designated as a state veterans' memorial rose garden.

(2) In addition to the reference required under 1-1-512, the department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the Missoula memorial rose garden on official state maps as a state veterans' memorial rose garden.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 1999.

1-1-519. Montana state firefighters' memorial. (1) The site chosen by the city of Laurel, Montana, as "firefighters' memorial park" is officially designated as the location of the Montana state firefighters' memorial.

(2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the memorial in Laurel on official state maps and, where appropriate, on state highway signs as the official state firefighters' memorial.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 70, L. 2003.

1-1-520. Renumbered 1-1-540. Code Commissioner, 2013.

1-1-521. State Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' memorial. (1) The grateful nation Montana memorial at the university of Montana, located in Missoula, Montana, dedicated to the men and women who served the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan, is an official state Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' memorial.

(2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation are directed to reference the location of the grateful nation Montana memorial at the university of Montana on official state maps as a state veterans' memorial for Iraq and Afghanistan.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 2013.

1-1-522. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 106, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 106, L. 2017.

1-1-523. Montana veterans' memorial. (1) The Montana veterans memorial in Great Falls, Montana, is officially designated as a Montana veterans' memorial.

(2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the Montana veterans memorial in Great Falls, Montana, on official state maps as a Montana veterans' memorial.

(3) The Montana veterans memorial in Great Falls, Montana, recognizes and honors all veterans, men, women, and canine service members, living or deceased, from all branches of the U.S. armed forces who served in peacetime or in war.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 2015.

1-1-524. Northeast Montana veterans memorial park. The department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the northeast Montana veterans memorial park in Fort Peck, Montana, on official state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 2015.

1-1-525. Montana cowboy hall of fame. (1) There is a Montana cowboy hall of fame. Once the recipient of the grant for site development and project planning authorized pursuant to section 4(7), Chapter 3, Special Laws of May 2007, determines the location of the Montana cowboy hall of fame, the grant recipient shall notify the department of commerce and the department of transportation.

(2) Once notified that the location of the Montana cowboy hall of fame is determined, the department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the site as the location of the Montana cowboy hall of fame on official state maps. When existing road signs need replacement, the department of transportation shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the site.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 2011.

1-1-526. Official home of Evelyn Cameron gallery — Terry. (1) The town of Terry is designated the "official home of the Evelyn Cameron gallery".

(2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the town of Terry as the official home of the Evelyn Cameron gallery on official state maps.

(3) The department of transportation shall erect and maintain signs designating the town of Terry as the official home of the Evelyn Cameron gallery along highways in the vicinity of Terry and shall accomplish the signing changes in accordance with the department's normal sign maintenance and replacement schedule.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 2005.

1-1-527. Shelby veterans' memorial flag monument. (1) The Shelby veterans' memorial flag monument in Shelby, Montana, is officially designated as a Montana veterans' memorial.

(2) The department of commerce and the department of transportation shall identify the Shelby veterans' memorial flag monument in Shelby, Montana, on official state maps as a Montana veterans' memorial.

(3) The Shelby veterans' memorial flag monument in Shelby, Montana, recognizes and honors all veterans, men, women, and canine service members, living or deceased, from all branches of the U.S. armed forces who served in peacetime or in war.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 2017.

1-1-528. State fruit. The huckleberry, Vaccinium membranaceum, is the official state fruit.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 550, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 550, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

1-1-529 reserved.

1-1-530. State lullaby. The song "Montana Lullaby", written by Ken Overcast and Wylie Gustafson, is the official lullaby of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 2007.

1-1-531. State soil. The soil series known as Scobey, of the taxonomic class fine, smectitic, frigid Aridic Argiustolls, is the official Montana state soil.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 2015.

1-1-532 through 1-1-539 reserved.

1-1-540. Display of historical writings or documents in or on public buildings or on state land — definitions. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3), a state agency or unit of local government may display the national motto, "in God we trust", as adopted by congress in 1998 (36 U.S.C. 302), in or on public buildings or state-owned land occupied by a state agency or unit of local government. For purposes of this section, the use of the word "God" is not intended to further the establishment of any specific religion or set of religious beliefs or to dissuade the free exercise of any religion or set of religious beliefs.

(2) In addition to the national motto, the legislature encourages the display of other historical documents in or on public buildings and state-owned land, including but not limited to:

(a) the Declaration of Independence;
(b) the United States constitution;
(c) the pledge of allegiance;
(d) the national anthem;

(e) the Mayflower Compact;

(f) the writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the founders and the presidents of the United States;

(g) writings from United States supreme court decisions;

(h) organic documents from the precolonial, colonial, revolutionary, federalist, and postfederalist eras;

(i) acts of the United States congress, including the published text of the Congressional Record;

(j) United States treaties; and

(k) any other writings, documents, or proclamations that are permanently displayed in a historic context in the United States capitol.

(3) The content of any writing, document, or record described in subsection (2) may not be censored solely because the writing, document, or record contains religious references, nor may any writings, documents, or material be selected for display in order to advance a particular religious, partisan, or sectarian purpose.

(4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Local government" has the meaning provided in 1-2-116.

(b) "State agency" has the meaning provided in 1-2-116.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 372, L. 2005; Sec. 1-1-520, MCA 2011; redes. 1-1-540 by Code Commissioner, 2013.

1-1-541. Display of POW/MIA flag. (1) The POW/MIA flag must be displayed on or in front of the locations specified in subsection (2) on any day when the flag of the United States of America is displayed. The display of the POW/MIA flag is to symbolize Montana's concern and commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting of United States military personnel who, having been prisoners of war or missing in action, still remain unaccounted for or who in the future may become prisoners of war, missing in action, or otherwise unaccounted for as a result of hostile action.

(2) The POW/MIA flag must be displayed pursuant to subsection (1) at the following locations:

(a) the state capitol;

(b) any building that serves as the location of a state district court;

(c) any building that serves as the location of a city or town hall for an incorporated city or town; and

(d) any building that serves as the main administrative building of a county.

(3) The POW/MIA flag may be no larger than the national flag and must be displayed as follows:

(a) if the national and the POW/MIA flags are flown on the same flagpole, the POW/MIA flag must be directly below the national flag;

(b) if the national and state flags are flown on the same flagpole, the POW/MIA flag must be directly below the national flag;

(c) if the national and state flags are flown on two different flagpoles, the POW/MIA flag must be on the pole with and directly below the national flag;

(d) if the national and POW/MIA flags are flown on separate flagpoles, the POW/MIA flag must occupy the pole to the left of the national flag;

(e) if the national, state, and POW/MIA flags are to be flown on three separate flagpoles, the national flag must occupy the right pole, the POW/MIA flag must occupy the middle pole, and the state flag must occupy the far left pole.

(4) As used in this section, "POW/MIA flag" means the flag designated in 36 U.S.C. 902 as the symbol of concern about United States military personnel taken as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 411, L. 2015.

CHAPTER 2
STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION

Part 1 — General Provisions

1-2-101. Role of the judge — preference to construction giving each provision meaning.
1-2-102. Intention of the legislature — particular and general provisions.

1-2-103. Statutes in derogation of the common law — liberal construction.
1-2-104. Preference to construction favoring natural right.
1-2-105. General definitional rules — verb tense, gender, and number.
1-2-106. Construction of words and phrases.
1-2-107. Applicability of definitions.
1-2-108. Reference to other titles, chapters, parts, sections, or subsections — subsequent amendments.
1-2-109. When laws retroactive.
1-2-110. All statutes subject to repeal.
1-2-111. Effect of code on special, local, and private statutes.
1-2-112. Statutes imposing new local government duties.
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1-2-114. Bill restriction.
1-2-115. Enforcement.
1-2-116. State agencies not to shift cost to local governments.
1-2-117. Construction of right of individual privacy.

Part 2 — Effect of Legislature's Actions

1-2-201. Statutes — effective date.
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1-2-203. Effect of amendment of statute.
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1-2-205. Repeal of law creating criminal offense.
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1-2-207. Repeal of repealing act — no revival.
1-2-208. Provisions of law not codified in Montana Code Annotated because redundant.

Part 1
General Provisions

1-2-101. Role of the judge — preference to construction giving each provision meaning. In the construction of a statute, the office of the judge is simply to ascertain and declare what is in terms or in substance contained therein, not to insert what has been omitted or to omit what has been inserted. Where there are several provisions or particulars, such a construction is, if possible, to be adopted as will give effect to all.

History: En. Sec. 612, p. 198, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 612, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 630, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3134, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7875, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10519, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1858; re-en. Sec. 10519, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-15(part).

1-2-102. Intention of the legislature — particular and general provisions. In the construction of a statute, the intention of the legislature is to be pursued if possible. When a general and particular provision are inconsistent, the latter is paramount to the former, so a particular intent will control a general one that is inconsistent with it.

History: En. Sec. 613, p. 198, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 613, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 631, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3135, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7876, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10520, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1859; re-en. Sec. 10520, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-16(part).

Cross-References

Particular versus general, 1-3-225.

1-2-103. Statutes in derogation of the common law — liberal construction. The rule of the common law that statutes in derogation thereof are to be strictly construed has no application to the statutes of the state of Montana. The statutes establish the law of this state respecting the subjects to which they relate, and their provisions and all proceedings under them are to be liberally construed with a view to effect their objects and to promote justice.

History: En. Sec. 4, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4; re-en. Sec. 4, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 12-202.

Cross-References

Common law — applicability of, 1-1-108.
Crimes — general purposes and principles of construction, 45-1-102.

1-2-104. Preference to construction favoring natural right. When a statute is equally susceptible of two interpretations, one in favor of natural right and the other against it, the former is to be adopted.

History: En. Sec. 620, p. 200, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 620, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 638, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3142, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7883, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10527, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1866; re-en. Sec. 10527, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-23(part).

1-2-105. General definitional rules — verb tense, gender, and number. The following rules apply in this code:

(1) The present tense includes the future as well as the present.

(2) Words used in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter.

(3) The singular includes the plural and the plural the singular.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 19-103(part).**

Cross-References

Gender usage, 1-1-201.

1-2-106. Construction of words and phrases. Words and phrases used in the statutes of Montana are construed according to the context and the approved usage of the language, but technical words and phrases and such others as have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning in law or are defined in chapter 1, part 2, as amended, are to be construed according to such peculiar and appropriate meaning or definition.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 15, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 15, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 16; re-en. Sec. 15, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 19-102.**

Cross-References

See "Words and Phrases Defined in Code", MCA General Index.

1-2-107. Applicability of definitions. Whenever the meaning of a word or phrase is defined in any part of this code, such definition is applicable to the same word or phrase wherever it occurs, except where a contrary intention plainly appears.

History: **En. Sec. 4661, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6223, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8776, R.C.M. 1921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 2000; re-en. Sec. 8776, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 12-215.**

1-2-108. Reference to other titles, chapters, parts, sections, or subsections — subsequent amendments. (1) A statute which refers to a title, chapter, part, section, or subsection number without further identification or attribution is presumed, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, to refer to a title, chapter, part, section, or subsection of the Montana Code Annotated.

(2) A specific or implied reference to a title, chapter, part, section, or subsection of the Montana Code Annotated is presumed to be a reference to that title, chapter, part, section, or subsection as it may be amended or changed from time to time. This presumption may be overcome only by a clear showing that a subsequent amendment or change in the title, chapter, part, section, or subsection is inconsistent with the continued purpose or meaning of the section referring to it.

(3) The presumption contained in subsection (2) applies retroactively as well as prospectively to any reference to a title, chapter, part, section, or subsection of the Montana Code Annotated, regardless of when the reference was created.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 12-216; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1983.**

1-2-109. When laws retroactive. No law contained in any of the statutes of Montana is retroactive unless expressly so declared.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3; re-en. Sec. 3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 12-201.**

Cross-References

Prohibition of ex post facto laws and laws impairing contracts, Art. II, sec. 31, Mont. Const.
Certain retrospective laws prohibited, Art. XIII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

1-2-110. All statutes subject to repeal. Any statute may be repealed at any time except when it is otherwise provided therein. Persons acting under any statute are deemed to have acted in contemplation of this power of repeal.

History: **En. Sec. 294, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 121, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 95, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 326; re-en. Sec. 95, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-512.**

1-2-111. Effect of code on special, local, and private statutes. Nothing in this code affects any of the provisions of any special, local, or private statutes; but such statutes are recognized as continuing in force notwithstanding the provisions of this code, except so far as they have been repealed or affected by subsequent laws.

History: En. Sec. 18, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 18, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 18, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 19; re-en. Sec. 18, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 12-209.

Cross-References

Local and special legislation, Art. V, sec. 12, Mont. Const.

Local government ordinances, resolutions, and initiatives and referendums, Title 7, ch. 5, part 1.

1-2-112. Statutes imposing new local government duties. (1) As provided in subsection (3), a law enacted by the legislature that requires a local government unit to perform an activity or provide a service or facility that requires the direct expenditure of additional funds and that is not expected of local governments in the scope of their usual operations must provide a specific means to finance the activity, service, or facility other than a mill levy. Any law that fails to provide a specific means to finance any activity, service, or facility is not effective until specific means of financing are provided by the legislature from state or federal funds.

(2) Subsequent legislation may not be considered to supersede or modify any provision of this section by implication. Subsequent legislation may supersede or modify the provisions of this section if the legislation does so expressly.

(3) The mandates that the legislature is required to fund under subsection (1) are legislatively imposed requirements that are not necessary for the operation of local governments but that provide a valuable service or benefit to Montana citizens, including but not limited to:

(a) entitlement mandates that provide that certain classes of citizens may receive specific benefits;

(b) membership mandates that require local governments to join specific organizations, such as waste districts or a national organization of regulators; and

(c) service level mandates requiring local governments to meet certain minimum standards.

(4) Subsection (1) does not apply to:

(a) mandates that are required of local governments as a matter of constitutional law or federal statute or that are considered necessary for the operation of local governments, including but not limited to:

(i) due process mandates;

(ii) equal treatment mandates;

(iii) local government ethics mandates;

(iv) personnel and employment mandates;

(v) recordkeeping requirements; or

(vi) mandates concerning the organizational structure of local governments;

(b) any law under which the required expenditure of additional local funds is an insubstantial amount that can be readily absorbed into the budget of an existing program. A required expenditure of the equivalent of approximately 1 mill levied on taxable property of the local government unit or $10,000, whichever is less, may be considered an insubstantial amount.

(c) a law necessary to implement the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, Public Law 103-31.

History: En. 43-517, 43-518 by Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 275, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-517, 43-518; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 416, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Local government taxes and finances generally, Title 7, ch. 6.

1-2-113. Statutes imposing new duties on a school district to provide means of financing. (1) Any law enacted by the legislature that requires a school district to perform an activity or provide a service or facility and that will require the direct expenditure of additional funds must provide a specific means to finance the activity, service, or facility other than the existing property tax mill levy. Any law that fails to provide a specific means to finance the service or facility is not effective until a specific means of financing meeting the requirements of subsection (2) is provided by the legislature.

(2) Financing must be by means of a remission of money by the state for the purpose of funding the activity, service, or facility. Financing must bear a reasonable relationship to the actual cost of performing the activity or providing the service or facility.

(3) Legislation passed and approved may not supersede or modify any provision of this section, except to the extent that the legislation expressly does so.

(4) This section does not apply to any law under which the required expenditure of additional funds by the board of trustees is an insubstantial amount that can be readily absorbed into the budget of an existing program.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 596, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 416, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

School finances generally, Title 20, ch. 9.

1-2-114. Bill restriction. (1) A bill may not be introduced enacting a new law or amending an existing law to require a local government unit to perform an activity or provide a service or facility that requires a direct expenditure of additional funds without a specific means to finance the activity, service, or facility in violation of 1-2-112 or 1-2-113.

(2) The estimate of fiscal impact provided in accordance with 5-4-210 must be considered in determination of whether a bill is introduced in violation of subsection (1).

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 416, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Bills, Art. V, sec. 11, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 4.

1-2-115. Enforcement. (1) A local government unit may use a remedy provided in subsection (2), (3), or (4) to prevent the application of a law enacted in violation of 1-2-112 or 1-2-113.

(2) A local government may, with the consent of a state agency charged with the implementation of the law, arbitrate the application of the law pursuant to the Uniform Arbitration Act.

(3) A local government unit may request a hearing before an administrative agency charged with the administration of the law. A hearing held pursuant to this section is a contested case proceeding pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. The decision of the agency may be appealed in accordance with Title 2, chapter 4, part 7.

(4) A local government unit may bring a civil action in the district court of the county in which the local government unit is located to prevent the application of a law enacted in violation of 1-2-112 or 1-2-113. The state of Montana may be named as the respondent or defendant in an action brought pursuant to this section.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 416, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Uniform Arbitration Act, Title 27, ch. 5.

1-2-116. State agencies not to shift cost to local governments. (1) A state agency may not take any action prohibited by subsection (2) without authorization in state law.

(2) A state agency may not demand, bill, request, or otherwise require a local government to take any of the following actions or make the provision of a service to a local government that is required by state law to be provided to that government contingent on the local government taking any of the following actions:

(a) pay for all or part of the administrative costs of a program, activity, or undertaking required by state law to be carried out primarily by a state agency;

(b) pay for costs of computer hardware or software used in the operation of a state program, activity, or undertaking or pay for the application of either hardware or software in a state program;

(c) pay for forms required to be completed either by a local government or by third persons through a local government office and used by or filed with a state agency; or

(d) pay for the filing in a state office of forms required by state law to be completed by a local government.

(3) (a) A local government may refuse to pay for services billed or charged to it by a state agency in violation of this section. Upon refusal by the local government, the state agency may send to the local government a written notice of the program or activity for which the local government is billed, a detailed statement of the amount of the bill or charge, and a citation to the legal authority requiring the local government to pay the bill or charge.

(b) Within 30 days of receipt of the notice required by this subsection (3), the local government shall pay the bill or charge or request a hearing before the state agency. Upon request, the state agency shall provide a hearing. If a local government fails to pay the bill or charge and fails to request a hearing, the state agency may initiate a contested case proceeding. Proceedings authorized by this subsection must be held in accordance with the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act governing contested cases. A decision of the state agency following opportunity for a hearing may be appealed to the district court as provided in 2-4-702.

(4) The remedy provided in subsection (3) is exclusive of any other remedy provided in law for a state agency claiming a right to recover an administrative cost from a local government and is exclusive of any other remedy provided in law for a local government refusing to pay a bill or charge of a state agency.

(5) This section does not apply to services provided by a state agency pursuant to a written or oral contract.

(6) The following definitions apply to this section:

(a) "Administrative cost" means the cost of administering a program, activity, or undertaking, including costs for salaries, wages, rent, heat, electricity, computer hardware, computer software, telephone, travel, equipment, supplies, or postage.

(b) "Local government" means a county, city, town, township, school district, or other district or local public entity with the authority to spend or receive public funds.

(c) "State agency" means a department, board, commission, office, bureau, or other public authority of state government.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 496, L. 1995.

1-2-117. Construction of right of individual privacy. The right of individual privacy as referenced in the Montana constitution, the Montana Code Annotated, or the Administrative Rules of Montana does not create, and may not be construed as creating or recognizing, a right to abortion or to governmental funding of abortion.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 402, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 2
Effect of Legislature's Actions

Part Cross-References

Effect of MCA, 1-11-103.

1-2-201. Statutes — effective date. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), every statute adopted after January 1, 1981, takes effect on the first day of October following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(b) Subject to subsection (1)(d), every statute providing for appropriation by the legislature for public funds for a public purpose takes effect on the first day of July following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(c) Subject to subsection (1)(d), every statute providing for the taxation of or the imposition of a fee on motor vehicles takes effect on the first day of January following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(d) Every statute enacted during a special session of the legislature takes effect upon passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(2) "Passage", as used in subsection (1), means the enactment into law of a bill, which has passed the legislature, either with or without the approval of the governor, as provided in the constitution.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3466, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8074, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 90, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 323; re-en. Sec. 90, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 43-507, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3467, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8075, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 91, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 91, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 100, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 309, L. 1977; Sec. 43-508, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 43-507, 43-508; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 119, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 466, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Special sessions, Title 5, ch. 3, part 1.

1-2-202. Joint resolutions — effective date. Every joint resolution, unless a different time is prescribed therein, takes effect from its passage.

History: En. Sec. 291, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 118, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 92, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 324; re-en. Sec. 92, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-509.

1-2-203. Effect of amendment of statute. Where a section or a part of a statute is amended, it is not to be considered as having been repealed and reenacted in the amended form, but the portions which are not altered are to be considered as having been the law from the time when they were enacted, and the new provisions are to be considered as having been enacted at the time of the amendment.

History: En. Sec. 292, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 119, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 93, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 325; re-en. Sec. 93, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-510.

1-2-204. Amendment of repealed act void. An act amending a section of an act repealed is void.

History: En. Sec. 297, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 124, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 98, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 330; re-en. Sec. 98, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-515.

1-2-205. Repeal of law creating criminal offense. The repeal of any law creating a criminal offense does not constitute a bar to an indictment or information and the punishment of an act already committed in violation of the law so repealed unless the intention to bar such indictment or information and punishment is expressly declared in the repealing act.

History: En. Sec. 8, p. 390, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 152, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 209, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 296, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 123, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 97, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 329; re-en. Sec. 97, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-514.

Cross-References

Application of Criminal Code of 1973 to offenses committed before and after Code's enactment, 45-1-103.

1-2-206. Repeal of repealed statute. The repeal of any statute or part of a statute heretofore repealed must not be so construed as a declaration, express or by implication, that such statute or part of a statute has been in force at any time subsequent to such first repeal.

History: En. Sec. 5180, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3560, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5526, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4504; re-en. Sec. 5526, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 12-213.

1-2-207. Repeal of repealing act — no revival. No act or part of an act repealed by another act of the legislature is revived by the repeal of the repealing act without express words reviving such repealed act or part of an act.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 390, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 146, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 203, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 295, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 122, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 96, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 328; re-en. Sec. 96, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-513.

1-2-208. Provisions of law not codified in Montana Code Annotated because redundant. (1) Whenever a provision of law codified in the Montana Code Annotated is amended in such a way that it conflicts with a provision of law that was not codified in the Montana Code Annotated because such uncodified provision was redundant with such codified provision, the codified provision, as amended, governs and must be given effect over the uncodified provision.

(2) Repeal or deletion of a provision of the Montana Code Annotated also repeals or deletes a provision of law that was not codified in the Montana Code Annotated because it was redundant with the repealed or deleted provision of the Montana Code Annotated, whether or not the repealed or deleted provision of the Montana Code Annotated was amended prior to its repeal or deletion.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Codification of laws, 1-11-204.

CHAPTER 3
MAXIMS OF JURISPRUDENCE

Part 1 — General Provisions

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1-3-232. Avoiding voidness.
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1-3-234. Third parties — who suffers.

Part 1
General Provisions

1-3-101. Purpose of maxims. The maxims of jurisprudence set forth in part 2 of this chapter are intended not to qualify any of the other provisions of this code but to aid in their just application.

History: En. Sec. 4600, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6177, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8738, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3509; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1964; re-en. Sec. 8738, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-101.

1-3-102 through 1-3-109 reserved.

1-3-110. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Mountain daylight time.** (1) The year-round observed time of the entire state and all of the state's political subdivisions is mountain daylight time. The state exempts all areas of the state from mountain standard time.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Mountain daylight time" means the period during a year when mountain standard time is advanced 1 hour in accordance with 15 U.S.C. 260a.

(b) "Mountain standard time" means the observed time assigned to the mountain time zone in 15 U.S.C. 261.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 447, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Effective Date: Section 6, Ch. 447, L. 2021, provided: "(1) [This act] is effective on the first Sunday of November following the day that the governor certifies to the code commissioner that:

(a) not fewer than four western states, including Montana, pass legislation to place all or a portion of those states on year-round daylight saving time, regardless of the time zone; and

(b) (i) legislation enacted by congress goes into effect to amend 15 U.S.C. 260a to authorize states to observe daylight saving time year-round; or

(ii) the United States department of transportation, pursuant to the department authority in 15 U.S.C. 260, et seq., approves the state's transfer from mountain standard time to central standard time.

(2) As used in this section, "western states" means the states of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming."

Part 2
Text of Maxims

1-3-201. Obsolete reason, obsolete rule. When the reason of a rule ceases, so should the rule itself.

History: En. Sec. 4601, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6178, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8739, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3510; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1965; re-en. Sec. 8739, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-102.

1-3-202. Same reason, same rule. Where the reason is the same, the rule should be the same.

History: En. Sec. 4602, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6179, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8740, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3511; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1966; re-en. Sec. 8740, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-103.

1-3-203. Change in purpose. A person may not change the person's purpose to the injury of another.

History: En. Sec. 4603, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6180, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8741, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3512; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1967; re-en. Sec. 8741, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-104; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-3-204. Waiver of benefit of law. Any person may waive the advantage of a law intended solely for that person's benefit. A law established for a public reason cannot be contravened by a private agreement.

History: En. Sec. 4604, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6181, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8742, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3513; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1968; re-en. Sec. 8742, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-105; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Contracts that violate policy of law, 28-2-702.

1-3-205. Limit on rights. A person shall so use that person's own rights as not to infringe upon the rights of another.

History: En. Sec. 4605, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6182, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8743, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3514; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1969; re-en. Sec. 8743, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-106; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-3-206. Consent. A person who consents to an act is not wronged by it.

History: En. Sec. 4606, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6183, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8744, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3515; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1970; re-en. Sec. 8744, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-107; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Consent in general — contracts, Title 28, ch. 2, part 3.
Crimes — consent as defense, 45-2-211.

1-3-207. Acquiescence. Acquiescence in error takes away the right of objecting to it.

History: En. Sec. 4607, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6184, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8745, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3516; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1971; re-en. Sec. 8745, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-108.

1-3-208. Own wrong — no advantage. A person may not take advantage of the person's own wrong.

History: En. Sec. 4608; Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6185, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8746, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3517; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1972; re-en. Sec. 8746, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-109; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Illegal occupation, 33-22-230.
Effect of homicide on intestate succession, wills, trusts, joint assets, life insurance, and beneficiary designations, 72-2-813.

1-3-209. Fraudulent dispossession. A person who has fraudulently dispossessed oneself of a thing may be treated as if the person still had possession.

History: En. Sec. 4609, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6186, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8747, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3518; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1973; re-en. Sec. 8747, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-110; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Types of fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.

1-3-210. Acts on one's behalf. A person who can and does not forbid that which is done on that person's behalf is considered to have authorized it.

History: En. Sec. 4610, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6187, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8748, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3519; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1974; re-en. Sec. 8748, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-111; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Rights and liabilities of agent that accrue to principal, 28-10-601.

1-3-211. Acts of others. No one should suffer for the act of another.

History: En. Sec. 4611, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6188, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8749, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3520; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1975; re-en. Sec. 8749, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-112.

1-3-212. Benefit — burden. A person who takes the benefit shall bear the burden.

History: En. Sec. 4612, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6189, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8750, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3521; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1976; re-en. Sec. 8750, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-113; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-3-213. Grant includes essentials. One who grants a thing is presumed to grant also whatever is essential to its use.

History: En. Sec. 4613, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6190, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8751, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3522; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1977; re-en. Sec. 8751, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-114.

1-3-214. Wrong — remedy. For every wrong there is a remedy.

History: En. Sec. 4614, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6191, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8752, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3523; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1978; re-en. Sec. 8752, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-115.

Cross-References

Remedies, Title 27.

1-3-215. Equal in right or wrong. Between those who are equally in the right or equally in the wrong, the law does not interpose.

History: En. Sec. 4615, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6192, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8753, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3524; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1979; re-en. Sec. 8753, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-116.

1-3-216. Preference to earliest. Between rights otherwise equal, the earliest is preferred.

History: En. Sec. 4616, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6193, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8754, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3525; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1980; re-en. Sec. 8754, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-117.

Cross-References

Water use — first in time is first in right, 85-2-401.

1-3-217. Beyond control. A person is not responsible for that which a person cannot control.

History: En. Sec. 4617, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6194, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8755, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3526; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1981; re-en. Sec. 8755, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-118; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-3-218. Vigilance. The law helps the vigilant before those who sleep on their rights.

History: En. Sec. 4618, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6195, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8756, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3527; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1982; re-en. Sec. 8756, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-119.

1-3-219. Form and substance. The law respects form less than substance.

History: En. Sec. 4619, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6196, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8757, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3528; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1983; re-en. Sec. 8757, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-120.

1-3-220. What ought to have been done. That which ought to have been done is to be regarded as done, in favor of a person to whom and against a person from whom performance is due.

History: En. Sec. 4620, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6197, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8758, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3529; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1984; re-en. Sec. 8758, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-121; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-3-221. Apparent nonexistence. That which does not appear to exist is to be regarded as if it did not exist.

History: En. Sec. 4621, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6198, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8759, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3530; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1985; re-en. Sec. 8759, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-122.

1-3-222. Impossibilities. The law never requires impossibilities.

History: En. Sec. 4622, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6199, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8760, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3531; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1986; re-en. Sec. 8760, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-123.

1-3-223. Idle acts. The law neither does nor requires idle acts.

History: En. Sec. 4623, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6200, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8761, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3532; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1987; re-en. Sec. 8761, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-124.

1-3-224. Trifles. The law disregards trifles.

History: En. Sec. 4624, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6201, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8762, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3533; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1988; re-en. Sec. 8762, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-125.

1-3-225. Particular versus general. Particular expressions qualify those which are general.

History: En. Sec. 4625, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6202, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8763, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3534; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1989; re-en. Sec. 8763, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-126.

Cross-References

Intention of Legislature — particular and general provisions, 1-2-102.
Intention of parties — particular and general provisions, 1-4-103.

1-3-226. Preference for contemporaneity. Contemporaneous exposition is in general the best.

History: En. Sec. 4626, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6203, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8764, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3535; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1990; re-en. Sec. 8764, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-127.

1-3-227. Smaller within larger. The greater contains the less.

History: En. Sec. 4627, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6204, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8765, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3536; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1991; re-en. Sec. 8765, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-128.

1-3-228. Superfluity. Superfluity does not vitiate.

History: En. Sec. 4628, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6205, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8766, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3537; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1992; re-en. Sec. 8766, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-129.

1-3-229. Certainty. That is certain which can be made certain.

History: En. Sec. 4629, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6206, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8767, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3538; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1993; re-en. Sec. 8767, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-130.

1-3-230. Void act. Time does not confirm a void act.

History: En. Sec. 4630, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6207, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8768, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3539; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1994; re-en. Sec. 8768, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-131.

1-3-231. Principal. The incident follows the principal and not the principal the incident.

History: En. Sec. 4631, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6208, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8769, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3540; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1995; re-en. Sec. 8769, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-132.

1-3-232. Avoiding voidness. An interpretation which gives effect is preferred to one which makes void.

History: En. Sec. 4632, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6209, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8770, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3541; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1996; re-en. Sec. 8770, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-133.

1-3-233. Reasonableness. Interpretation must be reasonable.

History: En. Sec. 4633, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6210, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8771, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3542; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1997; re-en. Sec. 8771, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-134.

1-3-234. Third parties — who suffers. When one of two innocent persons suffers by the act of a third, the person by whose negligence it happened must be the sufferer.

History: En. Sec. 4634, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6211, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8772, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3543; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1998; re-en. Sec. 8772, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 49-135; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Liability for negligence, 27-1-701.

CHAPTER 4
INTERPRETATION OF INSTRUMENTS

Part 1 — General Provisions

1-4-101. Role of the judge — preference to construction giving each provision meaning.
1-4-102. Consideration of circumstances surrounding execution.
1-4-103. Intention of the parties — particular and general provisions.
1-4-104. Preference to construction favoring natural right.
1-4-105. Written words versus words in printed form.
1-4-106. Interpretation of language according to usage in place of execution.

1-4-107. Construction of terms.
1-4-108. Construction of the terms of a notice.
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Part 2 — Seals

1-4-201. Seal defined.
1-4-202. Manner of making a seal.
1-4-203. Acceptance of foreign seals.
1-4-204. Distinctions between sealed and unsealed abolished.
1-4-205. Effect of instruments without a seal.
1-4-206. Change in writing under seal by unsealed writing.
1-4-207. Compromise or settlement of a debt by unsealed writing.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Plain Language in Contracts Act, Title 30, ch. 14, part 11.

1-4-101. Role of the judge — preference to construction giving each provision meaning. In the construction of an instrument, the office of the judge is simply to ascertain and declare what is in terms or in substance contained therein, not to insert what has been omitted or to omit what has been inserted. Where there are several provisions or particulars, such a construction is, if possible, to be adopted as will give effect to all.

History: En. Sec. 612, p. 198, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 612, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 630, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3134, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7875, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10519, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1858; re-en. Sec. 10519, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-15(part).

1-4-102. Consideration of circumstances surrounding execution. For the proper construction of an instrument, the circumstances under which it was made, including the situation of the subject of the instrument and of the parties to it, may also be shown so that the judge is placed in the position of those whose language the judge is to interpret.

History: En. Sec. 614, p. 199, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 614, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 632, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3136, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7877, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10521, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1860; re-en. Sec. 10521, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-17; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

When extrinsic evidence concerning written agreement may be considered, 28-2-905.
Reference to circumstances permissible in determining intention, 28-3-402.
Final written expression — parol or extrinsic evidence, 30-2-202.
Extrinsic evidence not to be considered in construction of deed — exceptions, 70-20-202.

1-4-103. Intention of the parties — particular and general provisions. In the construction of an instrument, the intention of the parties is to be pursued if possible. When a general and particular provision are inconsistent, the latter is paramount to the former so a particular intent will control a general one that is inconsistent with it.

History: En. Sec. 613, p. 198, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 613, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 631, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3135, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7876, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10520, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1859; re-en. Sec. 10520, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-16(part).

Cross-References

Particular versus general, 1-3-225.
Interpretation giving effect to contract favored, 28-3-201.
Contracts — intention of parties, Title 28, ch. 3, parts 3 and 4.

1-4-104. Preference to construction favoring natural right. When an instrument is equally susceptible of two interpretations, one in favor of natural right and the other against it, the former is to be adopted.

History: En. Sec. 620, p. 200, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 620, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 638, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3142, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7883, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10527, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1866; re-en. Sec. 10527, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-23(part).

1-4-105. Written words versus words in printed form. When an instrument consists partly of written words and partly of a printed form and the two are inconsistent, the former control the latter.

History: **En. Sec. 616, p. 199, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 616, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 634, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3138, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7879, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10523, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1862; re-en. Sec. 10523, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-19.**

Cross-References

Written or original terms to control printed terms, 28-3-205.

1-4-106. Interpretation of language according to usage in place of execution. The language of a writing is to be interpreted according to the meaning it bears in the place of its execution unless the parties have reference to a different place.

History: **En. Sec. 611, p. 198, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 611, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 629, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3133, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7874, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10518, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1857; re-en. Sec. 10518, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-14.**

Cross-References

What law and usage to govern interpretation, 28-3-102.
Course of dealing and usage of trade, 30-1-205.

1-4-107. Construction of terms. The terms of a writing are presumed to have been used in their primary and general acceptation, but evidence is nevertheless admissible that they have a local, technical, or otherwise peculiar signification and were so used and understood in the particular instance, in which case the agreement must be construed accordingly.

History: **En. Sec. 615, p. 199, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 615, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 633, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3137, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7878, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10522, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1861; re-en. Sec. 10522, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-18.**

Cross-References

Contracts — interpretation of words, Title 28, ch. 3, part 5.

1-4-108. Construction of the terms of a notice. A written notice, as well as every other writing, is to be construed according to the ordinary acceptation of its terms. Thus, a notice to the drawers or endorsers of a draft or promissory note that it has been protested for want of acceptance or payment must be held to import that any necessary presentment for acceptance or payment has been made, that the instrument has been dishonored, and that the holder looks for payment to the person to whom the notice is given.

History: **En. Sec. 619, p. 200, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 619, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 637, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3141, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7882, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10526, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1865; re-en. Sec. 10526, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-170, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-22.**

Cross-References

Negotiable instruments — presentment, 30-3-504.
Notice of dishonor, 30-3-508.

1-4-109. Superseded. Sup. Ct. Ord. No. 12729, July 10, 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 624, p. 201, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 624, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 642, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3146, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7887, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10531, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1870; re-en. Sec. 10531, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-27(part).**

1-4-110. Hydrocarbons distinguished. When used in any instrument, unless the clear and express terms of the instrument provide otherwise, the terms “coal”, “gas”, and “oil” must be construed as defined in 82-1-111.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1993.**

1-4-111. Purpose. (1) The purpose of 1-4-112, 82-1-501, and this section is to enact into law a presumptive understanding that fossils are not minerals and that fossils belong to the surface estate, unless conveyed by a clear and express grant.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that 1-4-112, 82-1-501, and this section apply prospectively and retroactively to instruments governed by Montana law to the maximum extent possible under the constitutions of the United States and the state of Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 2019.**

1-4-112. Fossils distinguished. (1) When used in any instrument, unless the clear and express terms of the instrument provide otherwise, the term “minerals” does not include fossils.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Fossilized" means preserved by natural processes, including but not limited to:
(i) burial in accumulated sediment;
(ii) preservation in ice or amber; or
(iii) replacement by minerals or alteration by chemical processes such as permineralization in which minerals are deposited in the pore spaces of the hard parts of an organism's remains, which may or may not alter the original organic content.

(b) "Fossils" means any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust.

(3) Fossils are considered part of the surface estate, subject to severance by the fee title owner of the land pursuant to a clear and express grant.

(4) Fossils are not subject to the provisions of Title 82.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 2019.

Part 2
Seals

1-4-201. Seal defined. (1) A "seal" is a particular sign made to attest in the most formal manner the execution of an instrument.

(2) A public seal in this state is a stamp or impression made by a public officer with an instrument provided by law to attest the execution of an official or public document. A private seal may be made in the same manner by any instrument.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3221, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7934, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10578, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1930; re-en. Sec. 10578, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-1101-2, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3222, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7935, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10579, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1931; re-en. Sec. 10579, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-1101-3, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1101-2, 93-1101-3(part).

1-4-202. Manner of making a seal. The seal of a court or public officer, when required by law to be affixed to any instrument, may be affixed by a stamp or impression of the seal upon the paper, or other material on which such instrument is written, alone or upon any substance attached to the paper or other material capable of receiving a visible stamp or impression. The seal of a private person may be made in like manner, by the scroll of a pen, or by writing the word "seal" against the signature of the writer.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 16, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 16, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 17; re-en. Sec. 16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11-114, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1977; Sec. 19-103, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 2189, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5021, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7523, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1628; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 798; re-en. Sec. 7523, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 13-610, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 3222, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7935, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10579, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1931; re-en. Sec. 10579, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-1101-3, R.C.M. 1947 R.C.M. 1947, 13-610, 19-103(25), 93-1101-3(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1985.

1-4-203. Acceptance of foreign seals. A scroll or other sign made in a sister state or foreign country and there recognized as a seal must be so regarded in this state.

History: En. Sec. 3222, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7935, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10579, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1931; re-en. Sec. 10579, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1101-3(part).

1-4-204. Distinctions between sealed and unsealed abolished. All distinctions between sealed and unsealed instruments are abolished.

History: En. Sec. 2190, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5022, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7524, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1629; re-en. Sec. 7524, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 13-611.

1-4-205. Effect of instruments without a seal. All instruments shall be as effectual without a seal as if the same had a seal attached thereto, but this section shall not apply to municipal or other corporations which by law are required to attest their action under seal.

History: En. Sec. 2191, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5023, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7525, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 7525, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 13-612.

1-4-206. Change in writing under seal by unsealed writing. There must be no difference in this state between sealed and unsealed writings. A writing under seal may therefore be changed or altogether discharged by a writing not under seal.

History: En. Sec. 3223, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7936, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10580, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1932; re-en. Sec. 10580, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1101-4.

1-4-207. Compromise or settlement of a debt by unsealed writing. An agreement in writing without a seal for the compromise or settlement of a debt is as obligatory as if a seal were affixed.

History: En. Sec. 3225, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7938, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10582, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1934; re-en. Sec. 10582, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1101-6.

CHAPTER 5
PROOF AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INSTRUMENTS NOTARIES PUBLIC

Part 1 — General Provisions — Proof and Acknowledgment (Repealed)

Part 2 — Acknowledgment (Repealed)

Part 3 — Proof of Execution

1-5-301. Who may prove execution of instrument.
1-5-302. When execution may be proved by handwriting.
1-5-303. Facts that must be shown when offering proof of handwriting.
1-5-304. Powers of officer taking proof of execution.
1-5-305. Contents of certificate of proof.

Part 4 — Notaries Public (Repealed)

Part 5 — Commissioners of Deeds (Repealed)

Part 6 — Notarial Acts

1-5-601. Short title.
1-5-602. Definitions.
1-5-603. Requirements for certain notarial acts — personal and remote appearance — identification methods.
1-5-604. Notarial acts in this state — authority to perform notarial act.
1-5-605. Notarial act in another state — reciprocity — notary public authority.
1-5-606. Notarial acts under authority of federally recognized Indian tribes.
1-5-607. Notarial acts under federal authority.
1-5-608. Foreign notarial acts.
1-5-609. Certificate of notarial acts.
1-5-610. Short forms.
1-5-611. Uniformity of application and construction.
1-5-612 through 1-5-614 reserved.
1-5-615. Notarial act regarding electronic record — selection of system — notification — training.
1-5-616. Official signature and stamp.
1-5-617. Stamping device.
1-5-618. Audiovisual recordings — notary public journal — security and retention.
1-5-619. Notary public qualifications — commission — renewals.
1-5-620. Examination and education of notary public — fee.
1-5-621. Grounds to deny — terms for refusing to renew, revoking, suspending, or conditioning notary public commissions.
1-5-622. Authority and requirements to refuse to perform notarial act.
1-5-623. Signature if principal unable to sign.
1-5-624. Validity of notarial acts.
1-5-625. Prohibited acts — advertising requirements.
1-5-626. Fees for notarial acts — collection of fees.
1-5-627. Database of notaries public.
1-5-628. Rulemaking.
1-5-629. Authority and venue for notarial acts.
1-5-630. Solemnization of marriage authorized.
1-5-631. Evidence of authenticity of notarial act for record sent to foreign country.
1-5-632. Unlawful acts — penalties.

Part 1
General Provisions — Proof and Acknowledgment (Repealed)

1-5-101. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1600, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4654, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6905, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1180; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 516; re-en. Sec. 6905, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 39-101, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 1601, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4655, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6906, R.C.M.

1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1181; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 517; re-en. Sec. 6906, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 39-102, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 39-101, 39-102; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 1989.

1-5-102. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1602, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4656, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6907, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1182; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 518; re-en. Sec. 6907, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-103; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 119, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 242, L. 1989.

1-5-103. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1603, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4657, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6908, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1183; re-en. Sec. 6908, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-104.

1-5-104. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1604, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4658, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6909, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1184; re-en. Sec. 6909, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-105.

1-5-105. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 39-106; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

1-5-106. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1613, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4667, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6918, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1193; re-en. Sec. 6918, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-115.

1-5-107. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1614, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4668, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6919, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1194; re-en. Sec. 6919, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-116.

1-5-108. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1622, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4676, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6927, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1202; re-en. Sec. 6927, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-124.

1-5-109. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1623, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4677, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6928, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1203; re-en. Sec. 6928, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-125.

1-5-110. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1624, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4678, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6929, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1204; re-en. Sec. 6929, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-126.

Part 2
Acknowledgment
(Repealed)

1-5-201. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1605, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4659, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6910, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1185; re-en. Sec. 6910, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 39-107.

1-5-202. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1608, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4662, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6913, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1188; re-en. Sec. 6913, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-110.

1-5-203. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1609, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4663, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6914, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1189; re-en. Sec. 6914, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-111.

1-5-204. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1612, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4664, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6915, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1190; re-en. Sec. 6915, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 39-112.

1-5-205. Repealed. Sec. 74, Ch. 18, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1612, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4666, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6917, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1192; re-en. Sec. 6917, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-114.

1-5-206. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1606, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4660, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6911, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1186; re-en. Sec. 6911, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 535, L. 1975; Sec. 39-108, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 1607, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4661, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6912, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1187; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 522; re-en. Sec. 6912, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 535, L. 1975; Sec. 39-109, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 39-108, 39-109.

1-5-207. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1611, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4665, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6916, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1191; re-en. Sec. 6916, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 535, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 39-113.

1-5-208. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 39-103.1.

Part 3
Proof of Execution

1-5-301. Who may prove execution of instrument. Proof of the execution of an instrument which has not been acknowledged may be made by:

(1) all of the parties who executed it or any one of them;

(2) a subscribing witness; or

(3) other witnesses in cases mentioned in 1-5-302.

History: En. Sec. 1615, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4669, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6920, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1195; re-en. Sec. 6920, R.C.M 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-117; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

1-5-302. When execution may be proved by handwriting. The execution of an instrument may be established by proof of the handwriting of the party and of a subscribing witness, if there is one, in the following cases:

(1) when the parties and all the subscribing witnesses are dead;

(2) when the parties and all the subscribing witnesses are nonresidents of the state;

(3) when the place of their residence is unknown to the party desiring the proof and cannot be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence;

(4) when the subscribing witness hides or cannot be found by the officer by the exercise of due diligence in attempting to serve the subpoena or attachment; or

(5) in case of the continued failure or refusal of the witness to testify for the period of 1 hour after the witness's appearance.

History: En. Sec. 1618, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4672, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6923, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. Sec. 1198; re-en. Sec. 6923, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-120; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Handwriting analysis, Title 72, ch. 12, part 4.

1-5-303. Facts that must be shown when offering proof of handwriting. The evidence taken under 1-5-302 must satisfactorily prove to the officer the following facts:

(1) the existence of one or more of the conditions mentioned in 1-5-302;

(2) that the witness testifying knew the person whose name purports to be subscribed to the instrument as a party and is well acquainted with that person's signature;

(3) that the witness testifying personally knew the person who subscribed the instrument as a witness and is well acquainted with that person's signature;

(4) that the signature or signatures in question are genuine; and

(5) the place of residence of the witness.

History: En. Sec. 1619, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4673, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6924, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1199; re-en. Sec. 6924, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-121; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 119, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Handwriting analysis, Title 72, ch. 12, part 4.

1-5-304. Powers of officer taking proof of execution. Officers authorized to take the proof of instruments are authorized in such proceedings to:

(1) administer oaths or affirmations as prescribed by law;

(2) employ and swear interpreters; and

(3) issue subpoenas as prescribed by law.

History: En. Sec. 1621, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4675, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6926, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1201; re-en. Sec. 6926, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-123; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

1-5-305. Contents of certificate of proof. An officer taking proof of the execution of an instrument shall, in the certificate endorsed upon or attached to the instrument, set forth all the matters required by law to be done or known by the officer or proved before the officer on the proceeding, together with the names of all the witnesses examined before the officer, their places of residence, and the substance of their testimony.

History: En. Sec. 1620, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4674, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6925, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1200; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 526; re-en. Sec. 6925, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-122; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Part 4
Notaries Public
(Repealed)

1-5-401. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 910, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 317, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 385, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 791; re-en. Sec. 385, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-101(part); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 2009.

1-5-402. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 911, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 318, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 103, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 386, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 792; re-en. Sec. 386, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-102; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 319, L. 2009.

1-5-403. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 912, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 319, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 387, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 793; re-en. Sec. 387, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-103; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 161, L. 2001.

1-5-404. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 922, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 329, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 398, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 398, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-114; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 161, L. 2001.

1-5-405. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Secs. 324-325, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 103, L. 1909; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 394, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 799; re-en. Sec. 394, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-110; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 161, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 2003.

1-5-406. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 919, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 326, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 395, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 801; re-en. Sec. 395, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-111; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-5-407. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 101, L. 1885; re-en. Sec. 1569, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 920, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 327, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 103, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 396, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 396, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-112; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-5-408. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3, p. 101, L. 1885; re-en. Sec. 1570, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 921, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 328, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 103, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 397, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 397, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 117, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 56-113; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 161, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 2001.

1-5-409. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 70, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 161, L. 2001.

1-5-410 through 1-5-414 reserved.

1-5-415. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 910, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 317, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 385, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 791; re-en. Sec. 385, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 56-101, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 4, Ch. 103, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 389, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 389, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 56-105, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 56-101(part), 56-105(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

1-5-416. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 913, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 320, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 103, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 388, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 794; re-en. Sec. 388, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-104; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 119, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 161, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 12, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 319, L. 2009.

1-5-417. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 390, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 390, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-106; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 161, L. 2001.

1-5-418. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1907; Sec. 3165, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4914, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4914, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 25-112; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 225, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 161, L. 2001.

1-5-419. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 915, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 322, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 392, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 796; re-en. Sec. 392, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-108; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 319, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2013.

1-5-420. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 916, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 323, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 393, R.C.M. 1921; Cal Pol. C. Sec. 797; re-en. Sec. 393, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-109; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 76, L. 2013.

Part 5
Commissioners of Deeds
(Repealed)

1-5-501. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 940, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 333, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 402, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Secs. 811-817; re-en. Sec. 402, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-201.

1-5-502. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 945, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 338, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 407, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 407, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-206.

1-5-503. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 946, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 339, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 408, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 408, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-207.

1-5-504. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 943, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 336, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 405, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 405, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-204.

1-5-505. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 941, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 334, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 403, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 403, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-202.

1-5-506. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 942, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 335, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 404, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 404, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-203.

1-5-507. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 944, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 337, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 406, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 406, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 56-205.

Part 6
Notarial Acts

1-5-601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

1-5-602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Acknowledgment" means a declaration by an individual appearing before a notarial officer that the individual has willingly signed a record for the purposes stated in the record and, if the record is signed in a representative capacity, that the individual signed the record with proper authority and signed the record as the act of the individual or entity identified in the record.

(2) "Appearing before" means:

(a) being in the same physical location as another person and close enough to see, hear, communicate with, and exchange identification credentials with that individual; or

(b) interacting with another individual by means of communication technology in compliance with this part.

(3) "Certification of fact" means a notarial act in which a notary reviews public or vital records or other legally accessible data to ascertain or confirm any of the following facts:

(a) date of birth, death, marriage, or divorce, or that an individual is alive;

(b) name of parent, marital partner, offspring, or sibling;

(c) that an event has occurred; or

(d) any matter authorized by law or rule of this state for certification by a notary public.

(4) "Communication technology" means a real-time, two-way audiovisual electronic device or process that:

(a) allows a notarial officer located in this state and a remotely located individual to communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound;

(b) facilitates communication with a remotely located individual with a vision, hearing, or speech impairment when necessary under and consistent with applicable law; and

(c) complies with this part and implementing rules.

(5) "Credential analysis" means a process or service operating according to criteria approved by the secretary of state through which a third person affirms the validity of a government-issued identification credential through review of public and proprietary data sources.

(6) "Dynamic knowledge-based authentication assessment" means an identity assessment that is based on a set of questions formulated from public or private data sources that does not contain a question for which the principal provided a prior answer to the entity doing the assessment.

(7) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

(8) "Electronic notarization system" means a set of applications, programs, hardware, software, or technologies designed to enable a notary public to perform electronic notarizations that renders every electronic notarial act tamper-evident through the use of a security procedure and that meets the requirements of this part and implementing rules.

(9) "Electronic signature" means an electronic symbol, sound, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by an individual with the intent to sign the record.

(10) "Identification credential" means a government-issued record evidencing an individual's identity.

(11) "Identity proofing" means a process or service by which a third person provides a notarial officer with a means to verify the identity of a principal by:

(a) a review of personal information from public or proprietary data sources; or

(b) biometric data including but not limited to facial recognition, voice analysis, or fingerprint analysis.

(12) "In a representative capacity" means acting as:

(a) an authorized officer, agent, partner, trustee, or other representative for a person other than an individual;

(b) a public officer, personal representative, guardian, or other representative, in the capacity stated in a record;

(c) an agent or attorney-in-fact for a principal; or

(d) an authorized representative of another in any other capacity.

(13) "Notarial act" means an act, whether performed with respect to a tangible or electronic record, that a notarial officer may perform under the law of this state. The term includes but is not limited to taking an acknowledgment, administering an oath or affirmation, taking a verification on oath or affirmation, witnessing or attesting a signature, certifying or attesting a copy, certifying or attesting a transcript of an affidavit or deposition, and noting a protest of a negotiable instrument.

(14) "Notarial officer" means a notary public or other individual authorized to perform notarial acts.

(15) "Notary public" or "notary" means an individual commissioned to perform a notarial act by the secretary of state.

(16) "Oath or affirmation" means a solemn verbal promise by which a person knowingly and willingly attests to the truthfulness of a statement and that is administered by a notarial officer.

(17) (a) "Official record" means a record or copy of a record attested by the officer or the officer's deputy with legal custody of the record that is accompanied by a certificate that the officer has custody of the record.

(b) The certificate must have been made under seal by:

(i) a clerk of a court of record in the district or political subdivision where the record is kept; or

(ii) a public officer with a seal of office and with official duties in the district or political subdivision where the record is kept.

(18) "Official stamp" means a physical image affixed to or embossed on a tangible record or an electronic image attached to or logically associated with an electronic record.

(19) "Outside the United States" means a location outside of the geographic boundaries of the United States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory, insular possession, or other location subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(20) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, statutory trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(21) "Principal" means:

(a) an individual whose signature is notarized; or

(b) an individual taking an oath or affirmation from the notary public but not in the capacity of a credible or other witness for the notarial act.

(22) "Public key certificate" means an electronic credential that is used to identify an individual who signed an electronic record with the credential and is issued and managed by a third-party provider utilizing public key infrastructure technology.

(23) "Public key infrastructure technology" means a method of enabling a user of an unsecured public network, including the internet, to securely and privately exchange data and money through a public and private cryptographic key pair that is obtained and shared through a trusted certificate authority that provides for:

(a) a digital certificate that is able to identify an individual or organization; and

(b) a directory service that is able to store and, if necessary, revoke a digital certificate.

(24) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(25) "Remote notarization" means a notarial act performed by means of communication technology on a tangible record that meets the standards adopted under this part.

(26) "Remote online notarization" means a notarial act or notarization performed by means of communication technology and an electronic notarization system on an electronic record that meets the standards adopted under this part.

(27) "Remote presentation" means transmission to the notarial officer through communication technology of an image of a government-issued identification credential that is of sufficient quality to enable the notarial officer to:

(a) identify the individual seeking the notarial officer's services; and

(b) visually review the identity credential and its data; and

(c) perform credential analysis.

(28) "Security procedure" means a procedure employed for the purpose of verifying that an electronic signature, record, or performance is that of a specific person or for detecting changes or errors in the information in an electronic record. The term includes a procedure that requires the use of algorithms or other codes, identifying words or numbers, encryption, or callback or other acknowledgment procedures.

(29) "Sign" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

(a) to execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

(b) to attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or process.

(30) "Signature" means a tangible symbol or an electronic signature that evidences the signing of a record.

(31) "Signature witnessing" means the notarial act in which a notarial officer witnesses a principal execute a record knowingly and willingly for the purposes intended while appearing before the notarial officer.

(32) "Sole control" means at all times being in the direct physical custody of the notarial officer or safeguarded by the notarial officer with a password or other secure means of authentication or access.

(33) "Stamping device" means:

(a) a physical device capable of affixing to or embossing on a tangible record an official stamp; or

(b) an electronic device or process capable of attaching to or logically associating an official stamp with an electronic record. The notarial official stamp, whether applied to the record physically or electronically, is considered to be a seal for the purposes of admitting a record in court.

(34) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(35) "Tamper-evident" means that any change to a record must provide evidence of the change.

(36) "Verification on oath or affirmation" or "jurat" means a declaration, made by a principal on oath or affirmation before a notarial officer, that a statement in a record is true and that the record has been executed knowingly and willingly before the notarial officer for the purposes intended.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-603. Requirements for certain notarial acts — personal and remote appearance — identification methods. (1) A notarial officer who takes an acknowledgment of a record shall determine, from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual, that the individual appearing before the notarial officer and making the acknowledgment has the identity claimed and that the signature on the record is the signature of the individual and was made knowingly and willingly for the purposes intended.

(2) A notarial officer who takes a verification on oath or affirmation of a statement shall determine, from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual, that the individual appearing before the notarial officer, signing the record, and making the verification has the identity claimed and that the signature on the statement verified is the signature of the individual and was made knowingly and willingly for the purposes intended.

(3) A notarial officer who witnesses or attests to a signature shall determine, from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual, that the individual appearing before the notarial officer and signing the record has the identity claimed and has executed the record knowingly and willingly for the purposes intended.

(4) (a) A notarial officer who takes an acknowledgment or witnesses a signature of an individual who signs a record in a representative capacity shall determine:

(i) from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual that the individual appearing before the notarial officer has the identity claimed; and

(ii) from the record, personal knowledge, or presentment of an official record that the individual holds the title or capacity claimed and has knowingly and willingly signed the record in that capacity for the purposes intended.

(b) The notarial officer may refuse to perform the notarial act if the notarial officer is not satisfied that the official record or the presented record evidences the individual's capacity to act as the principal's representative on the record presented for notarization.

(5) A notarial officer who certifies or attests a copy of a record or an item that was copied shall determine that the copy is a full, true, and accurate transcription or reproduction of the original or official record or the item. A notarial officer may certify that a tangible copy of an electronic record is an accurate copy of the electronic record. A county clerk shall accept for recording a tangible copy of an electronic record containing an original notarial certificate as satisfying any requirement that a record be an original.

(6) A notarial officer who makes or notes a protest of a negotiable instrument shall determine the matters set forth in 30-3-510(2).

(7) A notarial officer who administers an oath or affirmation shall determine from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual that the person appearing before the notarial officer and taking the oath or affirmation has the identity claimed and is knowingly and willingly making the statement with the intent to be bound by the statement.

(8) A notarial officer who administers an oath in conjunction with taking a deposition and certifies or attests to the transcript of the deposition shall certify to the matters set forth by this part, other laws, or the court of jurisdiction.

(9) (a) If a notarial act relates to a statement made in or a signature executed on a record, the individual making the statement or executing the signature shall appear physically before the notarial officer or by communication technology as authorized in 1-5-615 and rules adopted pursuant to 1-5-628.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (9)(c), subsection (9)(a) modifies, limits, and supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq.

(c) Subsection (9)(a) does not modify, limit, or supersede 15 U.S.C. 7001(c) or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

(10) (a) Subject to subsection (10)(b), a notarial officer may perform a remote notarization or remote online notarization for a principal who is located:

(i) in this state;

(ii) outside of this state but within the United States; or

(iii) outside the United States if:

(A) the act is not known by the notarial officer to be prohibited in the jurisdiction in which the principal is physically located at the time of the act; and

(B) the record is part of or pertains to:

(I) a matter that is to be filed with or is before a public official or court, governmental entity, or other entity located in the territorial jurisdiction of the United States;

(II) property located in the territorial jurisdiction of the United States; or

(III) a transaction substantially connected with the United States.

(b) A notarial officer may perform a remote notarization or remote online notarization only if the notarial officer:

(i) is physically located in this state at the time the notarial act is performed;

(ii) identifies the principal through personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence;

(iii) executes the notarial act in a single recorded session that complies with this part;

(iv) is satisfied that any record that is signed, acknowledged, or otherwise presented for notarization by the principal is the same record remotely notarized by the notarial officer;

(v) is satisfied that the quality of the communication technology is sufficient to make the determinations required for the notarial act under this part and any other applicable law of this state;

(vi) identifies the venue as described in 1-5-629; and

(vii) is capable of meeting the requirements of 1-5-618.

(c) A notarial officer who performs a remote notarization or remote online notarization shall take reasonable steps to ensure that:

(i) the notarial officer, the principal, and any required witness are accessing the communication technology or the electronic notarization system, or both, through an authentication procedure that is reasonably secure from unauthorized access;

(ii) the principal and any required witness are viewing the same record; and

(iii) all signatures, changes, and attachments to the record are made in real time.

(d) A notarial act performed by means of communication technology is considered to have been performed in Montana and is governed by Montana law regardless of the physical location of the principal at the time of the notarization.

(11) (a) A notarial officer who certifies a fact may review a public or private record to ascertain or verify that specific data is contained or shown on the record or memorialized in a publication that the notary believes to be reliable.

(b) A notarial officer who certifies that an individual is alive shall verify from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence that the individual appearing before the notarial officer is alive at the time of certification.

(c) A notarial officer who certifies a photograph shall verify from personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence that the photograph is an accurate representation of the individual or item represented.

(12) (a) A notarial officer has personal knowledge of the identity of an individual appearing before the notarial officer if the individual is personally known to the notarial officer through dealings sufficient to provide reasonable certainty that the individual has the identity claimed.

(b) A notarial officer has satisfactory evidence of the identity of an individual appearing before the notarial officer if the notarial officer can identify the individual:

(i) by means of:

(A) a passport, driver's license, or government-issued nondriver identification credential, which may be current or expired, and if expired may not be expired for more than 3 years before the performance of the notarial act; or

(B) another form of government identification issued to an individual, which:

(I) may be current or expired, and if expired may not be expired for more than 3 years before the performance of the notarial act;

(II) must contain the signature or a photograph of the individual; and

(III) must be satisfactory to the notarial officer; or

(ii) by oath or affirmation of a credible witness:

(A) physically present before the notarial officer and known to the notarial officer or whom the notarial officer can identify on the basis of a passport, driver's license, or government-issued nondriver identification record, which is current or expired, and if expired may not be expired for more than 3 years before the performance of the notarial act; or

(B) appearing by means of communication technology and identified by the notarial officer as provided in subsection (12)(c).

(c) If a principal or witness is appearing by means of communication technology, a notarial officer has satisfactory evidence of the identity of the individual if the notarial officer can identify the individual by two or more different types of technologies, processes, or services approved by the secretary of state, such as dynamic knowledge-based authentication assessment, valid public key certificate, identity proofing, remote presentation and credential analysis, or any other means prescribed in rule by the secretary of state.

(13) A notarial officer may use one or more approved identification technologies described in subsection (12)(c) for an individual who is physically in the presence of the notarial officer as satisfactory evidence of identity.

(14) A notarial officer may require an individual to provide additional information or identification credentials necessary to assure the notarial officer of the identity of the individual.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 161, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-604. Notarial acts in this state — authority to perform notarial act. (1) A notarial act may be performed in this state by:

(a) a notary public of this state;

(b) a judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of any court of this state; or

(c) any other individual authorized to perform the specific act by the law of this state.

(2) The signature and title of an individual performing a notarial act in this state are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.

(3) A notarial officer may perform a notarial act authorized by this part or by a law of this state other than this part.

(4) The notarial acts of certifying or attesting a transcript of an affidavit or deposition and noting a protest of a negotiable instrument may be performed only by notarial officers who are knowledgeable of the applicable legal requirements.

(5) The signature and title of a notarial officer described in subsection (1) conclusively establish the authority of the notarial officer to perform the notarial act.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Powers of judicial officers — taking acknowledgments and affidavits, 3-1-404.

Property — acknowledgment of instruments required, 70-21-203.

1-5-605. Notarial act in another state — reciprocity — notary public authority. (1) A notarial act performed in another state has the same effect under the law of this state as if the notarial act were performed by a notarial officer of this state if the notarial act performed in the other state is performed by:

(a) a notary public of that state;

(b) a judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of a court of that state; or

(c) any other individual authorized by the law of that state to perform the notarial act.

(2) The signature and title of an individual performing a notarial act in another state are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.

(3) The signature and title of a notarial officer described in subsection (1) conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform the notarial act.

(4) A commission to act as a notary public authorizes the notary public, as provided in 1-5-619, to perform notarial acts in any county in the state or in any bordering state if the border state recognizes the notary's authority within that state. The commission does not provide the notary public any immunity or benefit conferred by the laws of this state on public officials or employees.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

1-5-606. Notarial acts under authority of federally recognized Indian tribes. (1) A notarial act performed under the authority and in the jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian tribe has the same effect as if performed by a notarial officer of this state if the notarial act performed in the jurisdiction of the tribe is performed by:

(a) a notary public of the tribe;

(b) a judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of a court of the tribe; or

(c) any other individual authorized by the law of the tribe to perform notarial acts.

(2) The signature and title of an individual performing a notarial act under the authority of and in the jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian tribe are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the individual holds the designated title.

(3) The signature and title of a notarial officer described in subsection (1) conclusively establish the authority of the notarial officer to perform a notarial act.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

1-5-607. Notarial acts under federal authority. (1) A notarial act performed under federal law has the same effect under the law of this state as if performed by a notarial officer of this state if the notarial act performed under federal law is performed by:

(a) a judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of a court;

(b) an individual in the military service of the United States or performing duties under the authority of the military service if authorized to perform notarial acts under federal law;

(c) an individual designated as a notarizing officer by the United States department of state for performing notarial acts overseas; or

(d) any other individual authorized by federal law to perform notarial acts.

(2) The signature and title of an individual acting under federal authority and performing a notarial act are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and that the person holds the designated title.

(3) The signature and indicated title of an officer described in subsection (1) conclusively establish the authority of the officer to perform a notarial act.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

1-5-608. Foreign notarial acts. (1) A notarial act performed under the authority of and in the jurisdiction of a foreign state or a constituent unit of the foreign state or under the authority of a multinational or international governmental organization has the same effect under the law of this state as if performed by a notarial officer of this state.

(2) An "apostille" in the form prescribed by the Hague Convention of October 5, 1961, and issued by a foreign state that is a party to the Hague Convention conclusively establishes that the signature of the notarial officer is genuine and that the notarial officer holds the indicated office.

(3) A consular authentication issued by an individual designated by the United States department of state as a notarizing officer for performing notarial acts overseas and attached to the record with respect to which the notarial act is performed conclusively establishes that the signature of the notarial officer is genuine and that the notarial officer holds the indicated office.

(4) If the title of office and indication of authority to perform notarial acts in a foreign state appears in a digest of foreign law or in a list customarily used as a source for that information, the authority of an officer with that title to perform notarial acts is conclusively established.

(5) The signature and official stamp of an individual holding an office described in subsection (4) are prima facie evidence that the signature is genuine and the individual holds the designated title.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "foreign state" means a government other than the United States, a state, or a federally recognized Indian tribe.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

1-5-609. Certificate of notarial acts. (1) (a) A notarial act must be evidenced by a certificate completed by a notarial officer.

(b) The certificate must:

(i) be executed contemporaneously with the performance of the notarial act;

(ii) specify the notarial act performed;

(iii) identify the venue as described in 1-5-629;

(iv) identify the name of the principal, the type of record and issuing entity that is copied, or the information the notarial officer has certified under 1-5-603(11);

(v) be signed and dated by the notarial officer. If the notarial officer is a notary public, a clerk of court, a deputy clerk of court, a clerk and recorder, a deputy clerk and recorder, the state registrar, or the authorized agent of the state registrar, the certificate must be signed in the same manner as on file with the secretary of state.

(vi) contain the title of the office of the notarial officer; and

(vii) contain the impression or electronic image of the notary public's official stamp or the notarial officer's seal.

(2) (a) The certificate for a notarial act on a tangible record must be part of or securely affixed to the record.

(b) The certificate for a notarial act on an electronic record must be attached to or logically associated with the record.

(3) A certificate of a remote notarization or remote online notarization must include the information specified in subsection (1)(b), indicate that the notarial act was performed using communication technology, and include any other information required by rule.

(4) A certificate of a notarial act is sufficient if the certificate meets the requirements of subsections (1) through (3) and this subsection and:

(a) is in the short form set forth in 1-5-610;

(b) is in a form otherwise permitted by the law of this state;

(c) is in a form permitted by the laws applicable in the jurisdiction in which the notarial act was performed; or

(d) sets forth the actions of the notarial officer and the actions are sufficient to meet the requirements of the notarial act as provided in 1-5-610, 1-5-616, and this section or of the laws of this state other than specified in this part.

(5) (a) A notary public may subsequently correct any information included on or omitted from a certificate executed by that notary if the change or correction can be evidenced by the information contained in the notary's journal record of the transaction.

(b) A notary public may not change or correct an impression or electronic image of an official stamp but may affix a subsequent impression on a tangible record or attach or logically associate with an electronic record an electronic image of a missing, illegible, or incorrect official stamp.

(c) Any changes or corrections must be dated and initialed by the notary public and a corresponding notation of the changes must be made in the journal record. Only the notary public who performed the notarization may make or authorize a change or correction to a previously completed certificate. If a notary public authorizes a third party to change or correct the information included or omitted on a previously completed certificate, the authorization must be granted in writing and a copy of the message authorizing the change and a copy of the changed certificate must be attached to the notary public's journal record for that transaction.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 161, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-610. Short forms. The following short-form certificates of notarial acts are sufficient for the purposes indicated if they are completed with the information required by 1-5-609(1) through (4):

(1) For an acknowledgment in an individual capacity:
State of.......................
County of.......................

This record was acknowledged before me on (date) by (name(s) of individual(s)) ....

....
(Signature of notarial officer)
(Official Stamp)

....
Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(2) For an acknowledgment in a representative capacity:
State of.......................
County of.....................

This record was acknowledged before me on (date) by (name(s) of individual(s)) as (title or capacity) of or for (name of party on behalf of whom the record was executed).

....
(Signature of notarial officer)
(Official stamp)

....
Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(3) For a verification on oath or affirmation (jurat):
State of.......................
County of.....................

This record was signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on (date) by (name(s) of individual(s)) ....

....
(Signature of notarial officer)
(Official stamp)

....
Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(4) For witnessing or attesting a signature:
State of.......................
County of......................

The record was signed before me on (date) by (name(s) of individual(s)) ....

....
(Signature of notarial officer)
(Official stamp)

....
Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(5) For a signature witnessing in a representative capacity:
State of.......................
County of.....................

This record was signed before me on (date) by (name(s) of individual(s)) as (title or capacity) of or for (name of party on behalf of whom the record was executed).

....
(Signature of notarial officer)
(Official Stamp)

....
Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(6) For certifying a copy of a tangible record:
State of.......................
County of......................

I certify that this is a true and correct copy of (identification of record), an original record in the possession of, or issued by, (custodian or issuer) and made by me on (date).

....
(Signature of notarial officer)
(Official stamp)

....

Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(7) For certifying a copy of an electronic record:

State of.......................

County of.....................

I certify that the foregoing and annexed record entitled (title of record), dated ...., and consisting of .... (pages or size of file) is a true and correct copy of an electronic record printed directly from the electronic file by me on (date).

....

(Signature of notarial officer)

(Official stamp)

....

Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(8) For certifying a transcript of a deposition or affidavit:

State of.......................

County of.......................

I hereby certify and state the following:

that I have sworn in the deponent;

that the deposition was taken before me and this is a true and accurate transcription of the testimony;

that I am not a relative, agent, or employee of the deponent or the attorney or counsel of any of the parties;

that I am not an interested party to the matter.

A review of this transcript (was / was not) requested.

Dated this .... day of ...., 20...

....

(Signature of notarial officer)

(Official stamp)

....

Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(9) For a remote notarization or remote online notarization on a tangible or electronic record for a principal located outside the United States:

State of.......................

County of.....................

This record was (acknowledged) (signed) (signed and sworn to or affirmed) before me by use of communication technology on (date) by (name of principal(s)), who declared that (he) (she) (they) (is) (are) located in (place where principal(s) was/were physically located at the time of notarial act) and that this record is part of or pertains to a matter that is to be filed with or is before a court, governmental entity, or other entity located in the United States or involves property located in, or a transaction substantially connected with, the United States.

....

(Signature of notarial officer)

(Official stamp)

....

Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(10) For a remote notarization or remote online notarization on a tangible or electronic record for a principal located in or outside this state but within the United States:

State of.......................

County of.....................

This record was (acknowledged) (signed) (signed and sworn to or affirmed) before me by use of communication technology on (date) by (name of principal(s)), who declared that (he) (she) (they) (is) (are) located in (place within the United States where principal(s) was/were physically located at the time of notarial act).

....

(Signature of notarial officer)

(Official stamp)

....
Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(11) For a certification of fact or event:
State of.......................
County of.....................

I certify that I have confirmed that (information that is being verified) is true and correct based on a review of (the source of the information) made by me on (date).

....
(Signature of notarial officer)

(Official stamp)

....
Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(12) For certification of life:
State of.......................
County of.....................

I certify that (name of individual) is alive and appeared physically before me at (location where individual appeared) on (date) at (time a.m. or p.m.).

....
(Signature of notarial officer)

(Official stamp)

....
Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)

(13) For certification of photograph:
State of.......................
County of.....................

I certify that the attached photograph is an accurate representation of (name of individual or item) based on (how subject was confirmed) on (date).

....
(Signature of notarial officer)

(Official stamp)

....
Printed name and title of officer (if not shown in stamp)"

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 161, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 319, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 275, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-611. Uniformity of application and construction. Consideration must be given in applying and construing this part to the need to promote the uniformity of the law with respect to the subject of this part among other enacting states.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 391, L. 2015.

1-5-612 through 1-5-614 reserved.

1-5-615. Notarial act regarding electronic record — selection of system — notification — training. (1) (a) A notarial officer may select one or more electronic notarization systems to perform notarial acts with respect to electronic records.

(b) A person may not require a notarial officer to perform a notarial act with respect to an electronic record with an electronic notarization system that the notarial officer has not selected.

(2) An electronic notarization system provider shall take reasonable steps to ensure that a notary public opting to use the provider's system has the knowledge to use it to perform electronic notarial acts in compliance with this part.

(3) Before a notary public performs the notary public's initial notarial act using an electronic notarization system or a communication technology, a notary public shall:

(a) notify the secretary of state that the notary public will be performing notarial acts using the electronic notarization system or the communication technology;

(b) identify the electronic notarization system or communication technology, or both, that the notary public intends to use. If the secretary of state has established by rule the standards for the system or technology, the system or technology must comply with the standards. If the system or technology complies with the standards, the secretary of state shall approve the use of the system or technology.

(c) complete a course of instruction approved by the secretary of state and pass an examination based on the course. The course must cover notarial rules, procedures, and ethical obligations pertaining to remote or electronic notarization under this part or pursuant to any other law or official guideline of this state. The course may be completed in conjunction with any course required by the secretary of state for a notary public commission. A notary shall submit proof to the secretary of state that the notary has successfully completed the course and examination.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-616. Official signature and stamp. (1) The official signature of a notary public must:

(a) be filed with the secretary of state on a form prescribed by the secretary of state;

(b) be reasonably similar to the official signature on file with the secretary of state;

(c) if executed on a tangible record, be in blue or black ink;

(d) if executed on an electronic record, be an electronic image of the official signature submitted to the secretary of state; and

(e) be affixed to all tangible and electronic records.

(2) The official stamp of a notary public must:

(a) include the notary public's name, title, city of residence, commission expiration date, or other information required by the secretary of state;

(b) if a physical image, be in blue or black ink in a format prescribed by the secretary of state and capable of being copied together with the record to which the official stamp is affixed or attached or with which the official stamp is logically associated;

(c) if an electronic image, be the same format, color, content, and approximate size as the tangible official stamp and capable of being copied together with the record to which the official stamp is affixed or attached or with which the official stamp is logically associated.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-617. Stamping device. (1) A notary public is the sole owner of the notary public's stamping device and is responsible for the security of the notary public's stamping device and may not allow another individual to use the stamping device to perform a notarial act or for any other reason.

(2) (a) On resignation from or the revocation or expiration of the notary public's commission or on the expiration of the date set forth in the stamping device, the notary public shall disable the stamping device by destroying, defacing, damaging, erasing, or securing the stamping device against use in a manner that renders the stamping device unusable.

(b) On the death or adjudication of incompetency of a notary public, the notary public's personal representative or guardian or any other person knowingly in possession of the stamping device shall render the stamping device unusable by destroying, defacing, damaging, erasing, or securing the stamping device against use in a manner that renders the stamping device unusable.

(3) The notary public or the notary public's personal representative or guardian shall promptly notify the secretary of state's office on discovering that the notary public's stamping device is lost, stolen, or otherwise inaccessible to the notary public.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-618. Audiovisual recordings — notary public journal — security and retention. (1) (a) If a notarial act is performed using communication technology, the notarial officer shall make an audiovisual recording of the entire communication.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (1)(d)(ii), a notarial officer must keep sole possession of an audiovisual recording.

(c) (i) A notarial officer shall allow a person to inspect or obtain a copy of an audiovisual recording if:

(A) the requester specifies the month, year, type of record, and name of the principal for the notarial act, in a signed tangible or electronic request;

(B) the notarial officer does not surrender possession or control of the original recording;

(C) the requester is shown or given a copy of only the recording specified; and

(D) the notarial officer is satisfied that the requester has reasonable purpose directly relating to the notarization.

(ii) A recording may be examined and copied without restriction by a law enforcement officer in the course of an official investigation, subpoenaed by court order, or surrendered at the direction of the secretary of state.

(d) (i) Except as provided in subsection (1)(d)(ii), a notarial officer shall retain an audiovisual recording for 10 years from the date of the recording.

(ii) A current or former notarial officer may transmit the audiovisual recording to a repository approved by the secretary of state.

(2) (a) A notary public shall maintain one or more journals in which the notary public chronicles all notarial acts that the notary public performs.

(b) A journal may be created on a tangible medium or in an electronic format to chronicle all notarial acts, whether those notarial acts are performed regarding tangible or electronic records. The format of a journal maintained on a tangible medium must be a permanent, bound register designed to deter fraud. A journal maintained in an electronic format must be in a permanent, tamper-evident electronic format that complies with the rules adopted by the secretary of state.

(3) An entry in a journal must be made contemporaneously with performance of the notarial act and contain:

(a) the date and time of the notarial act;

(b) a description of the record,including the date of the record if indicated, and the type of notarial act;

(c) the full name and address of each principal;

(d) the signature of each principal, except:

(i) transcripts of depositions and certified copies do not require the signature of the individual for whom the notarial act is performed; and

(ii) if the notarial act is performed using communication technology, the journal record must reference the storage location of the audiovisual recording in lieu of the signature of the principal;

(e) if the identity of the principal is based on personal knowledge, a statement to that effect;

(f) if the identity of the principal is based on satisfactory evidence, a brief description of the method of identification and the identification credential presented, if any, including the date of issuance or expiration of any identification credential;

(g) if the notarial act is performed using an electronic notarization system or communication technology, or both, a notation identifying the system or technology, or both; and

(h) the fee, if any, charged by the notary public.

(4) A notary public may not record in the journal a social security number, passport number, driver's license number, birth date, or any other information prohibited by the secretary of state. A notary public may include other information descriptive of the record, including the number of pages in a document, whether the document was written in a foreign language, or other information pertaining to the record that is not otherwise prohibited by law or rule.

(5) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), a notary public shall keep sole control of the journal and all other notarial records and surrender or destroy them only as authorized by law or rule, by court order, or at the direction of the secretary of state.

(b) A notary public may not allow the notary's journal to be used by any other notary and may not surrender the journal to an employer upon termination of employment without the approval of the secretary of state. An employer may retain a copy of the journal of an employee who is a notary after the notary's employment ceases if the journal contains records of notarial acts performed within the scope of the notary's employment.

(6) (a) Any person may inspect or obtain a copy of an entry in a notary public's journal if:

(i) the person specifies in a signed tangible or electronic request the month, year, type of record, and name of the principal;

(ii) the notary public does not surrender possession or control of the journal;

(iii) the person is shown or given a copy of only the entry specified; and

(iv) the notary is satisfied that a person requesting the inspection or copy does not have a criminal or other illegal purpose for inspecting the entry or obtaining the copy.

(b) A journal may be examined and copied without restriction:

(i) by a law enforcement officer in the course of an official investigation;

(ii) if subpoenaed by court order; or

(iii) at the direction of the secretary of state.

(7) A notary public shall promptly notify the secretary of state on discovering that the notary public's journal is lost or stolen.

(8) A notary public shall notify the secretary of state of the journal's location upon resignation of a commission or if the notary public's commission has been revoked or suspended.

(9) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), a notary public shall retain a journal for 10 years after the performance of the last notarial act chronicled in the journal.

(b) A former notary public may transmit the journal to a repository approved by the secretary of state.

(10) On the death or adjudication of incompetency of a current or former notary public, the notary public's personal representative or guardian or any other person knowingly in possession of the notary public's journal or audiovisual recordings shall transmit all journals and recordings to a repository approved by the secretary of state.

(11) Upon revocation of a notary public's commission, the notary shall transmit the notary's journal and audiovisual recordings to a repository approved by the secretary of state.

(12) If Montana supreme court rules governing conduct by members of the bar, including the rules of professional conduct and ethics opinions, prohibit compliance by an attorney licensed by the supreme court with any provision of this section, that provision does not apply to the attorney.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-619. Notary public qualifications — commission — renewals. (1) To hold a commission as a notary public, an individual must:

(a) be at least 18 years old;

(b) be a citizen or permanent legal resident of the United States;

(c) (i) be a resident of Montana;

(ii) be the spouse or legal dependent of military personnel assigned to active duty in this state;

(iii) maintain a place of business in the state of Montana that is registered pursuant to Title 35 and meet any applicable business licensing requirements of the local government where the business is located;

(iv) be regularly employed at an office, business, or facility located within the state of Montana by an employer registered and licensed to do business in this state; or

(v) hold a current professional license to practice the profession in Montana issued by an appropriate Montana authority; and

(d) be able to read and write English.

(2) To be eligible for a new or renewed commission, an applicant shall pass an examination and must meet the education requirements as provided in 1-5-620 and may not have been disqualified as provided in 1-5-621.

(3) An individual qualified under subsections (1) and (2) may apply to the secretary of state for a new or renewed commission as a notary public.

(4) An applicant for a new or renewed commission shall:

(a) complete an application and provide information required by rule by the secretary of state;

(b) pay a filing fee set by rule;

(c) execute an oath of office and comply with requirements adopted by rule by the secretary of state;

(d) obtain an assurance in the form of a surety bond or its functional equivalent in the amount of $25,000. The assurance must be issued by a surety or other entity licensed or authorized to do business in this state. The assurance must cover acts performed during the term of the notary public's commission and must be in the form prescribed by the secretary of state. The surety or issuing entity is liable under the assurance if a notary public violates a law with respect to notaries public in this state. The surety or issuing entity shall give 30 days' notice to the secretary of state before canceling the assurance. The surety or issuing entity shall notify the secretary of state not later than 30 days after making a payment to a claimant under the assurance. A notary public may perform notarial acts in this state only during the period that a valid assurance is on file with the secretary of state.

(e) provide certification that the applicant has passed the examination and completed the education requirements in 1-5-620; and

(f) submit the application, bond, certification, and nonrefundable filing fee to the secretary of state within 30 days before or after the effective date of the surety bond or the expiration of the previous commission.

(5) The secretary of state shall issue a commission for a 4-year term as a notary public to an applicant for a new or a renewed commission who has complied with this section.

(6) An individual may not have more than one Montana notary public commission in effect at the same time.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-620. Examination and education of notary public — fee. (1) An applicant for a new or renewed commission as a notary public in this state shall pass an examination administered by the secretary of state or by an entity approved by the secretary of state. The examination must be based on the course of study described in subsection (2).

(2) The secretary of state or an entity approved by the secretary of state shall offer regularly a course of study to applicants for a new or renewed commission. The course must cover the laws, rules, procedures, and ethics relevant to notarial acts.

(3) On and after July 1, 2020, in addition to passing the examination:

(a) for a new commission, the applicant must have completed within the previous 12 months at least 4 hours of notary public education approved by the secretary of state or by the commission of continuing legal education;

(b) to renew a commission, an applicant must have completed:

(i) within the previous 12 months, at least 4 hours of notary public continuing education approved by the secretary of state or by the commission of continuing legal education; or

(ii) in each of the previous 3 years, at least 2 hours of notary public continuing education approved by the secretary of state or by the commission of continuing legal education.

(4) The secretary of state shall collect fees commensurate with the cost incurred by the secretary of state's office for providing notary public education and examination.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-621. Grounds to deny — terms for refusing to renew, revoking, suspending, or conditioning notary public commissions. (1) The secretary of state may deny, refuse to renew, revoke, suspend, or impose a condition on a commission as a notary public for any act or omission that demonstrates the individual lacks the honesty, integrity, competence, or reliability to act as a notary public, including:

(a) failure to comply with the provisions of this part;

(b) a fraudulent, dishonest, or deceitful misstatement or omission in the application submitted to the secretary of state for a commission as a notary public;

(c) pending release from supervision, a conviction of the applicant or notary public of any felony or crime involving fraud, dishonesty, or deceit, although conviction of a criminal offense is not a complete bar to receiving a commission if the individual's full rights have been restored;

(d) admission by the applicant or notary public or a finding in any legal proceeding or disciplinary action of the applicant's or notary public's fraud, dishonesty, or deceit;

(e) failure by the notary public to discharge any duty required of a notary public, whether the provisions of this part, rules of the secretary of state, or any state or federal law;

(f) use of false or misleading advertising or representation by the notary public representing that the notary public has a duty, right, or privilege that the notary does not have;

(g) violation by the notary public of a rule of the secretary of state regarding a notary public;

(h) denial, refusal to renew, revocation, suspension, or conditioning of a notary public commission in another state; and

(i) failure of the notary public to maintain an assurance, as provided in 1-5-619.

(2) The secretary of state may require a notary public who has violated a provision of this part or a rule of the secretary of state implementing a provision of this part to complete a notary public education class approved by the secretary.

(3) A notary who is convicted of or pleads guilty or no contest to a felony crime involving fraud, dishonesty, or deceit shall notify the secretary of state within 30 days of the conviction or plea.

(4) If the secretary of state denies, refuses to renew, revokes, suspends, or imposes conditions on a commission as a notary public, the applicant or notary public is entitled to contest the action in accordance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(5) The authority of the secretary of state to deny, refuse to renew, revoke, suspend, or impose conditions on a commission as a notary public does not prevent an individual from seeking and obtaining other criminal or civil remedies provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-622. Authority and requirements to refuse to perform notarial act. (1) A notarial officer shall refuse to perform a notarial act if the notarial officer is not satisfied that:

(a) the individual executing the record is competent or has the capacity to execute the record; or

(b) the individual executing the record is signing knowingly or voluntarily.

(2) A notarial officer may refuse to perform a notarial act unless refusal is prohibited by a law other than as provided in this part.

(3) A notary public shall refuse a request that would require the notary to:

(a) use an electronic notarization system or a communication technology that the notary does not know how to operate; or

(b) use an electronic notarization system or communication technology that does not meet the requirements of this part or standards adopted by rule.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 275, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-623. Signature if principal unable to sign. (1) If a principal intending to execute a record is physically unable to sign a record, the principal may direct an individual other than the notarial officer to sign the principal's name on the record. The notarial officer shall insert "Signature affixed by (name of the other individual) at the direction of (name of principal intending to execute the record)" or words with similar intent.

(2) A notary public shall record in the notary's journal the name and address of the individual who signs the record as well as the name and address of the principal unable to sign.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-624. Validity of notarial acts. Failure by a notarial officer to perform a duty or meet a requirement specified in this part, except failure to comply with the provisions of 1-5-603(12) or 1-5-625(1)(a) through (1)(d) and (2), does not invalidate a notarial act performed by the notarial officer. The validity of a notarial act under this part does not prevent an aggrieved person from seeking to invalidate the record or transaction that is the subject of the notarial act or from seeking other remedies based on the laws of this state, other than this part, or the laws of the United States. This section does not validate a purported notarial act performed by an individual who does not have the authority to perform notarial acts.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-625. Prohibited acts — advertising requirements. (1) A notary public may not:

(a) notarize the notary's own signature;

(b) notarize a record in which the notary is individually named or from which the notary will directly benefit by a transaction involving the record, including as provided in subsection (2);

(c) certify a copy of an official record issued by a public entity, such as a birth, death, or marriage certificate, a court record, or a school transcript unless the notary is employed by the entity issuing or holding the original version of the record;

(d) affix the notary public's official signature or stamp to any record that does not contain the notary public's completed notarial certificate, unless otherwise directed by statute or rule;

(e) engage in false or deceptive advertising;

(f) advertise or represent that the notary public, unless also licensed as an attorney in this state, is able to assist persons in drafting legal records, give legal advice, or otherwise practice law. To meet the requirements of this subsection (1)(f), advertising must include the statement provided in subsection (4).

(g) except as otherwise allowed by law, withhold access to or retain possession of an original record provided by a person that seeks performance of a notarial act by the notary public; or

(h) unless the notary public is an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, use the term "notario" or "notario publico".

(2) A notary public who is a partner, stockholder, director, officer, or employee of a partnership or corporation and is individually named in the record or who signs a record as a representative of that partnership or corporation may not notarize the signature of any individual on that record.

(3) A commission as a notary public does not authorize an individual to:

(a) assist persons in drafting legal records, give legal advice, or otherwise practice law;

(b) act as an immigration consultant or an expert on immigration matters;

(c) represent a person in a judicial or administrative proceeding relating to immigration to the United States or United States citizenship or related matters; or

(d) receive compensation for performing any of the activities listed in this subsection (3).

(4) (a) A notary public who is not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state shall provide in advertising or other representations regarding an offering of notarial services, whether oral or written, used in broadcast media, print media, or on the internet a statement as provided in subsection (4)(b) or an alternate statement authorized or required by the secretary of state. The statement must be prominently displayed and in each language used in the advertisement or representation. If the form of advertisement or representation is not broadcast media, print media, or the internet and does not permit inclusion of the statement required by this subsection because of its size, the statement must be displayed prominently or provided at the place of performance of the notarial act before the notarial act is performed.

(b) To meet the requirements of subsection (4)(a), a notary public who is not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state shall use either an alternate statement authorized or required by the secretary of state or the following statement:

"I am not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state. I am not allowed to draft legal records, give advice on legal matters, including immigration, or charge a fee for those activities."

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 123, L. 2019.**

1-5-626. Fees for notarial acts — collection of fees. (1) A notary public may charge a fee not to exceed $10 for each notarial act:

(a) performing an acknowledgment;

(b) witnessing a signature;

(c) executing a verification on oath or affirmation (jurat);

(d) certifying a transcript;

(e) certifying a copy;

(f) performing a certification of fact; or

(g) performing another notarial act authorized by law, unless charging a fee for the act is expressly prohibited by that law.

(2) (a) Subject to subsections (2)(b) through (2)(d), a notary public may charge an additional fee, as provided by rule, to:

(i) perform a notarial act using an electronic notarization system or communication technology; or

(ii) travel to perform a notarial act.

(b) The notary public shall explain to the person requesting the notarial act that:

(i) the fee is in addition to a fee specified in subsection (1); and

(ii) the fee is an amount not determined by law.

(c) The person requesting the notarial act must agree in advance on the amount of the additional fee.

(d) A fee charged for travel must be equal to or less than the standard mileage rates allowed by the internal revenue service.

(3) A notary public may also charge a fee to recover the actual cost of providing a copy of a journal entry or audiovisual recording of a notarial act performed using communication technology.

(4) If a notary public charges fees under this section for performing notarial acts, the notary public shall display in English a list of the fees the notary public will charge.

(5) A notary public who is employed by a private entity may enter into an agreement with the entity under which fees collected by the notary public under this section are collected by and accrue to the entity.

(6) A public official may collect the fees described in this section for notarial acts performed in the course of employment by notaries public who are employed by the public body.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-627. Database of notaries public. The secretary of state shall maintain an electronic database of notaries public:

(1) through which a person may verify the authority of a notary public to perform notarial acts;

(2) that indicates whether a notary public has notified the secretary of state that the notary public will be performing notarial acts on electronic records; and

(3) that describes any active or pending administrative or disciplinary action against the notary public.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-628. Rulemaking. (1) The secretary of state may adopt rules to implement this part.

(2) Rules adopted regarding the performance of notarial acts with respect to electronic records, electronic notarization systems, or communication technology may not require or accord legal status or effect to the implementation or application of a specific system, technology, or technical specification.

(3) The rules may:

(a) prescribe the manner of performing notarial acts regarding tangible and electronic records;

(b) include provisions to ensure that any change to or tampering with a record bearing a certificate of a notarial act is self-evident;

(c) include provisions to ensure integrity in the creation, transmittal, storage, or authentication of electronic records or signatures;

(d) prescribe the process of granting, renewing, conditioning, denying, suspending, or revoking a notary public commission and ensuring the trustworthiness of an individual holding a commission as notary public;

(e) include provisions to prevent fraud or mistake in the performance of notarial acts;

(f) establish the process for approving and accepting surety bonds and other forms of assurance under 1-5-619; and

(g) provide for the administration of the examination under 1-5-620(1) and the course of study under 1-5-620(2).

(4) In adopting, amending, or repealing rules about notarial acts with respect to electronic records, the secretary of state shall consider, consistent with this part:

(a) the most recent standards regarding electronic records promulgated by national bodies, such as the national association of secretaries of state;

(b) the standards, practices, and customs of other jurisdictions that substantially implement the provisions of this part; and

(c) the views of governmental officials and entities as well as other interested persons.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 391, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-629. Authority and venue for notarial acts. (1) A notary public may perform a notarial act within the jurisdiction authorized in the notary's commission from the secretary of state.

(2) The venue for a notarial act is the state and the county where the notarial officer is physically located at the time the notarial act is performed.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-630. Solemnization of marriage authorized. As provided in 40-1-301 and subject to rules adopted by the secretary of state, a notary public may solemnize a marriage.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-631. Evidence of authenticity of notarial act for record sent to foreign country. (1) The authenticity of the official seal and signature of a Montana notarial officer may be evidenced by a certificate of authority from the secretary of state confirming the authority of a Montana notarial officer to perform a notarial act on a record that will be sent to a foreign country. The certificate must be in a form prescribed by the Hague Convention of October 5, 1961, or in a form approved by the United States department of state.

(2) A certificate of authority may not be issued for a record that is intended for use within the United States, including its territories, or by a federally recognized tribe.

(3) The secretary of state may refuse to issue a certificate of authority if the secretary of state has reason to believe that the record may be used within the United States, including its territories, or by a federally recognized tribe, or for any unlawful, fraudulent, or improper purpose.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

1-5-632. Unlawful acts — penalties. (1) It is unlawful to:

(a) intentionally withhold from a notary public the notary public's official stamp, journal, or certificate of commission of a notary public;

(b) attach, photocopy, alter, or otherwise reproduce a notary public's signature, stamp, or completed notarial certificate for use on a record other than the original record for which it was intended;

(c) knowingly destroy, deface, or conceal a notarial record;

(d) change, modify, correct, or in any other way amend a notarial certificate, except as provided in 1-5-609(5).

(2) A person convicted of an offense under this section is subject to a fine not to exceed $2,500, incarceration for a period not to exceed 1 year, or both, for each offense.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 123, L. 2019.

CHAPTER 6
OATHS

Part 1 — General Provisions

1-6-101. Officers who may administer oaths.
1-6-102. Form of ordinary oath.
1-6-103. Variation of oath to suit witness's belief.
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1-6-105. Unsworn declarations — penalty of perjury.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Oath of public office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Filing of county officers' oaths of office, 7-4-101.
Oath of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 20-3-102.
Oath of County Superintendent of Schools, 20-3-202.
Oath of school trustee, 20-3-307.
Oath of teacher, 20-4-104.

1-6-101. Officers who may administer oaths. Every court, judge, clerk of any court, justice, notary public, and officer or person authorized to take testimony in any action or proceeding or to decide upon evidence has power to administer oaths or affirmations.

History: En. Sec. 360, p. 118, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 418, p. 219, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 492, p. 135, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 671, p. 214, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 671, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 693, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 3430, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8049, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10693, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 2093; re-en. Sec. 10693, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2401-1.

1-6-102. Form of ordinary oath. An oath or affirmation in an action or proceeding may be administered by the person who swears or affirms expressing that person's assent when addressed with “You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that the evidence you will give in this issue (or matter), pending between .... and ...., is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God”.

History: En. Sec. 3431, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8050, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10694, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 2094; re-en. Sec. 10694, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2401-2; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Public officers — oaths — form — before whom — when, 2-16-211.

1-6-103. Variation of oath to suit witness's belief. The court shall vary the mode of swearing or affirming to accord with the witness's beliefs whenever it is satisfied that the witness has a distinct mode of swearing or affirming.

History: En. Sec. 3432, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8051, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10695, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 2095; re-en. Sec. 10695, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2401-3; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 119, L. 1979.

1-6-104. Affirmation or declaration in lieu of oath. Any person who desires it may instead of taking an oath make a solemn affirmation or declaration by assenting when addressed with “You do solemnly affirm (or declare), etc.”, as provided in 1-6-102.

History: En. Sec. 362, p. 118, Bannack Stat.; en. Sec. 420, p. 219, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 494, p. 135, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 673, p. 215, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 673, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 695, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 3434, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8053, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10697, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 2097; re-en. Sec. 10697, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2401-5; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

1-6-105. Unsworn declarations — penalty of perjury. (1) Whenever, under any law of this state or under any rule, order, or requirement made under the law of this state, any matter is required or permitted to be supported, evidenced, established, or proved by a person's sworn written declaration, verification, certificate, oath, or affidavit, the matter may with like force and effect be supported, evidenced, established, or proved by an unsworn written declaration, certificate, verification, or statement that is subscribed by the person as true under penalty of perjury in substantially the following form:

(a) If executed within the state:

“I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

....
Date and place Signature”

(b) If executed in any place outside the state:

“I declare under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the state of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct.

....
Date and place Signature”

(2) A deliberate falsification in any declaration pursuant to this section constitutes the offense of perjury as provided in 45-7-201 and is punishable as the offense of false swearing as provided in 45-7-202. A declaration under penalty of perjury executed in accordance with any provision of this code is not limited to the official proceedings referenced in 45-7-201.

(3) This section does not apply to writings requiring an acknowledgment, deposition, oath of office, or oath required to be taken before a special official other than a notary public.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 238, L. 2011.

CHAPTERS 7 THROUGH 10
RESERVED

CHAPTER 11
PUBLICATION AND UPDATING OF THE CODE
CODE COMMISSIONER

Part 1 — General Provisions

1-11-101. Definitions.
1-11-102. Name — citation — correct form.
1-11-103. Effect of Montana Code Annotated — official version.

Part 2 — Code Commissioner

1-11-201. Code commissioner.
1-11-202. Qualifications of code commissioner.
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Part 3 — Publication

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1-11-302. Updates of Montana Code Annotated.
1-11-303. Authority to issue ancillary publications.
1-11-304. Copyrights prohibited.

Part 1
General Provisions

1-11-101. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Code" or "codes" means the Montana Code Annotated, which is a reenactment of the Revised Codes of Montana, 1947, as provided in 1-11-103.

(2) "Recodify" means to compile, arrange, rearrange, and prepare for publication. It includes, without changing the meaning, effect, or intent of any law:

(a) correcting or changing punctuation, capitalization, spelling, grammatical construction, and numbering as required by uniform literary and bill drafting practice;

(b) substituting the appropriate new code division reference for reference to a section of, to a part of, or to an entire "act";

(c) substituting calendar date for "effective date", "hereafter", and similar terms;

(d) creating new titles, chapters, parts, sections, or other divisions of the code;

(e) changing or inserting language made necessary because of rearrangement;

(f) eliminating redundant words;

(g) when given direction or authority by another statute, correcting inaccurate or obsolete references to:

(i) titles of officers or agencies, such as those changed by executive reorganization statutes;

(ii) other code sections, such as those that have been repealed or repealed and replaced;

(h) changing inaccurate terminology to comply with statutory definitions or short form amendments;

(i) changing or creating section captions (catchlines) to clearly reflect the content of the section, unless the section captions are specifically and expressly adopted as part of the law by the legislature.

History: En. 12-501 by Sec. 1, Ch. 419, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 1, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 12-501; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 292, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

1-11-102. Name — citation — correct form. (1) The recodified laws are known as the "Montana Code Annotated" and may be cited as "MCA".

(2) An example of the correct citation form for a section of the Montana Code Annotated is "1-11-102, MCA".

History: En. 12-504 by Sec. 4, Ch. 419, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 12-504; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 119, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 2003.

1-11-103. Effect of Montana Code Annotated — official version. (1) The Montana Code Annotated is a reenactment of the Revised Codes of Montana, 1947, and the supplements thereto.

(2) The enactment of the Montana Code Annotated may not:

(a) revive a law repealed or superseded before the effective date of the Montana Code Annotated;

(b) affect an act done, right accrued, or obligation incurred or imposed by law prior to the effective date of the Montana Code Annotated;

(c) affect any action, suit, or proceeding pending on the effective date of the Montana Code Annotated;

(d) repeal statutes of a nongeneral, nonpermanent nature, such as severability, construction, validating, repealing, or similar statutes, omitted from the Montana Code Annotated.

(3) The Montana Code Annotated must be given effect as a continuation of the Revised Codes of Montana and not as a new enactment. A defect in title of any act set out in prior laws and reenacted by the Montana Code Annotated is cured by the enactment of the Montana Code Annotated.

(4) No implication or presumption of legislative construction is to be drawn from the classification or arrangement of the Montana Code Annotated.

(5) Unless specifically and expressly adopted as part of the law by the legislature, annotations, code commissioner notes, catchlines, or other editorial material included in the Montana Code Annotated may not be construed as part of the legislative text but are only for the purpose of convenience, orderly arrangement, and information.

(6) After enactment, the Montana Code Annotated, including all subsequent replacement volumes, is prima facie the official laws of Montana. In case of any inconsistency in meaning arising through omission or otherwise between the provisions of the Montana Code Annotated and the corresponding portion of the official enrolled bill on file with the secretary of state, effect must be given to the official enrolled bill.

(7) The Montana Code Annotated, prepared in accordance with part 3, is the official version of the statutes of Montana. The official version of the statutes is the only publication of the statutes that may be used in public documents. This subsection is not intended to interfere with the supreme court's authority to adopt rules of evidence pursuant to Article VII, section 2, of the Montana constitution.

History: En. 12-506 by Sec. 6, Ch. 419, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 1, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 12-506; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 119, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Effect of Legislature's actions, Title 1, ch. 2, part 2.

Part 2
Code Commissioner

1-11-201. Code commissioner. There is within the legislative services division a code commissioner.

History: En. 12-502 by Sec. 2, Ch. 419, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 12-502; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Legislative Services Division — functional organization and responsibilities, 5-11-112.

1-11-202. Qualifications of code commissioner. To be eligible to be code commissioner, a person must be licensed to practice law in Montana for at least 5 years and demonstrate a knowledge of code arranging and recodification procedures.

History: En. 12-503 by Sec. 3, Ch. 419, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 12-503.

Cross-References

Supreme Court's bar admission rules authority, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Licensing of attorneys, Title 37, ch. 61.

1-11-203. Supervision by legislative council. The code commissioner is subject to the general supervision and policy of the legislative council.

History: En. 12-505 by Sec. 5, Ch. 419, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 1, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 12-505(1).

1-11-204. Duties of code commissioner. (1) Prior to November 1 immediately preceding each regular legislative session, the code commissioner shall prepare and submit to the legislative council a report, in tabular or other form, indicating the commissioner's recommendations for legislation that will:

(a) eliminate archaic or outdated laws;
(b) eliminate obsolete or redundant wording of laws;
(c) eliminate duplications in law and any laws repealed directly or by implication;
(d) clarify existing laws;
(e) correct errors and inconsistencies within the laws.

(2) The commissioner shall cause to be prepared for publication with the Montana Code Annotated the following material:

(a) the statutory history of each code section;

(b) annotations of state and federal court decisions relating to the subject matter of the code;

(c) editorial notes, cross-references, and other matter the commissioner considers desirable or advantageous;

(d) the Declaration of Independence;

(e) the Constitution of the United States of America and amendments to the constitution;

(f) acts of congress relating to the authentication of laws and records;

(g) the Organic Act of the Territory of Montana;

(h) The Enabling Act;

(i) The 1972 Constitution of the State of Montana and any amendments to the constitution;

(j) ordinances relating to federal relations and elections;

(k) rules of civil, criminal, and appellate procedure and other rules of procedure the Montana supreme court may adopt; and

(l) a complete subject index, a separate index for the constitution, a popular name index, and comparative disposition tables or cross-reference indexes relating sections of the Montana Code Annotated to prior compilations and session laws.

(3) (a) After publication of the Montana Code Annotated, the code commissioner shall:

(i) annotate, arrange, and prepare for publication all laws of a general and permanent nature enacted at each legislative session and assign catchlines and code section numbers to each new section;

(ii) continue to codify, index, arrange, rearrange, and generally update the Montana Code Annotated to maintain an orderly and logical arrangement of the laws in order to avoid future need for bulk revision;

(iii) prepare and publish a report entitled "Official Report of the Montana Code Commissioner—(year)" that indicates, in tabular or other form, all changes made during the continuous recodification, other than punctuation, spelling, and capitalization, to clearly indicate the character of each change made since the last report.

(b) In carrying out the duty imposed by subsection (3)(a)(ii), the commissioner shall recodify the Montana Code Annotated on a title-by-title basis. The recodification is intended to be secondary to the completion of other interim duties.

(4) From time to time, the commissioner shall confer with members of the judiciary and the state bar relative to recodification procedures.

History: En. 12-505 by Sec. 5, Ch. 419, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 1, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 12-505(2) thru (7); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 119, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 160, L. 2009.

Part 3
Publication

1-11-301. Publication and sale of Montana Code Annotated — free distribution. (1) The legislative council, with the advice of the code commissioner, shall decide on the quantity, quality, style, format, and grade of all publications prior to having the code commissioner call for bids for the printing and binding and contract for their publication. The code commissioner shall follow the requirements of state law relating to contracts and bids, except as provided in this section.

(2) The methods of sale to the public of the Montana Code Annotated and supplements or other subsequent and ancillary publications may be included as an alternative specification and bid and as a part of a contract to be let by bids by the code commissioner.

(3) The sales price to the public of all Montana Code Annotated material must be fixed by the legislative council but may not exceed the cost price plus 25%. All revenue generated from the sale of the Montana Code Annotated or ancillary publications must be deposited in the state special revenue fund. Appropriations from the fund may be made for the use of the office and facilities of the legislative council under this chapter.

(4) Sets of the Montana Code Annotated purchased by the state, Montana local governmental agencies that are supported by public funds, and nonprofit organizations may not exceed the cost price of the sets plus 5%.

(5) (a) One copy of the Montana Code Annotated and supplements, and other subsequent and ancillary publications except annotations, must be provided at no cost to each library designated as a depository library as defined in 22-1-211.

(b) The state law library in Helena must be provided with four copies of the Montana Code Annotated and supplements, including annotations and other subsequent and ancillary publications.

(c) The legislative council shall include in the cost price of the code the cost of providing the copies under this subsection.

History: En. 12-507 by Sec. 7, Ch. 419, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 1, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 12-507; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 1, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 265, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Codes for legislators, 5-11-209.

1-11-302. Updates of Montana Code Annotated. The publication of updates to the Montana Code Annotated may be as a cumulative supplement or replacement volume or in any other format approved by the legislative council.

History: En. 12-510 by Sec. 10, Ch. 419, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 1, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 12-510(1), (2); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 119, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 1995.

1-11-303. Authority to issue ancillary publications. The code commissioner may issue supplementary and ancillary publications as necessary or desirable in aid of the general use and purposes of the Montana Code Annotated and the supplements or replacements to the Montana Code Annotated. The code commissioner shall publish a legislative review containing a summary of enactments of each session of the legislature. The code commissioner shall publish a history and final status of all bills and resolutions of each session of the legislature that contains corrected voting records for bills and resolutions.

History: En. 12-510 by Sec. 10, Ch. 419, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 1, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 12-510(3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

1-11-304. Copyrights prohibited. The Montana Code Annotated, supplements, or other publications ancillary thereto, as published, are the sole property of the state of Montana and may not be copyrighted.

History: En. 12-508 by Sec. 8, Ch. 419, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 12-508; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 100, L. 1993.

CHAPTER 12
COMMISSION ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

Part 1 — General Provisions

1-12-101. Appointment, composition, term of office.
1-12-102. Vacancies.
1-12-103. Repealed.
1-12-104. Duties of commissioners.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

See “Popular Names and Short Titles Index” for list of Uniform Laws, MCA General Index.

1-12-101. Appointment, composition, term of office. (1) There is a Montana commission on uniform state laws, which consists of three recognized members of the bar or members of the faculty of the law school of the university of Montana-Missoula and any resident of this state who, because of long service in the cause of the uniformity of state legislation, has been elected a life member of the national conference of commissioners on uniform state laws. Commissioners must be appointed by the legislative council for terms of 4 years each or until their successors are appointed. The legislative council may accept recommendations for appointments from the state bar of Montana, the Montana judges' association, and the dean of the law school.

(2) Commissioners shall serve for no salary. Commissioners are entitled to reimbursement for expenses as provided in 2-18-501.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 175, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 12-401; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1993; amd. sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995.

1-12-102. Vacancies. If an appointed commissioner dies, resigns, or fails or refuses to serve, the office becomes vacant. The legislative council shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 175, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 12-402; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 99, L. 1993.

1-12-103. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 99, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 175, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 12-403.

1-12-104. Duties of commissioners. (1) Each commissioner shall attempt to attend the meeting of the national conference of commissioners on uniform state laws and shall promote uniformity in state laws upon all subjects in which uniformity is desirable and practicable.

(2) It is the duty of the commission to bring about, as far as practicable, the uniform judicial interpretation of all uniform laws.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 175, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 93, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 12-404; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 99, L. 1993.

CHAPTER 13
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Canadian Boundary Advisory Committee (Repealed)

Part 1
Canadian Boundary Advisory Committee (Repealed)

1-13-101. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 511, L. 1985.

1-13-102. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 511, L. 1985.

1-13-103. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 511, L. 1985.

1-13-104 reserved.

1-13-105. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 511, L. 1985.

1-13-106 through 1-13-110 reserved.

1-13-111. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 511, L. 1985.

TITLE 2

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ch.
1. Sovereignty and Jurisdiction.
2. Standards of Conduct.
3. Public Participation in Governmental Operations.
4. Administrative Procedure Act.
5. Montana Negotiated Rulemaking Act.
6. Public Records.
7. Studies, Reports, and Audits.
8. Legislative Review.
9. Liability Exposure and Insurance Coverage.
10. State Agency Actions Affecting Private Property.
11. Legal Authority for Government Action.
12. Government Planning and Performance Reporting.
Chapters 13 and 14 reserved.
15. Executive Branch Officers and Agencies.
16. Public Officers.
17. Property and Systems Development and Management.
18. State Employee Classification, Compensation, and Benefits.
19. Termination of State Agencies.
20. Electronic Transactions With State Agencies and Local Governments. Repealed.
Chapters 21 through 88 reserved.
89. Montana Statehood Centennial. Repealed and Terminated.

CHAPTER 1

SOVEREIGNTY AND JURISDICTION

Part 1 — Sovereignty and Jurisdiction of the State

2-1-101. Sovereignty and style of process.
2-1-102. Sovereignty and jurisdiction of the state.
2-1-103. Repealed.

Part 2 — Cession and Retrocession of Jurisdiction

2-1-201. Jurisdiction in federal enclaves.
2-1-202. Jurisdiction over lands purchased by United States — reservation of rights to state.
2-1-203. Withdrawal of offer to cede legislative jurisdiction.
2-1-204. Military reservations — service of process.
2-1-205. Glacier national park.
2-1-206. Cession and retrocession of jurisdiction over Blackfeet highway.
2-1-207. Yellowstone national park.
2-1-208. Withdrawal of consent to purchase additional state lands for national park.
2-1-209. Concurrent jurisdiction over Fort Peck Dam ceded to United States — reservation of rights to state.
2-1-210. Consent to purchase of lands by United States for national forest purposes — jurisdiction.
2-1-211. Consent to purchase lands for migratory bird reservations — jurisdiction.
2-1-212. Acceptance of concurrent jurisdiction over veterans center.
2-1-213. Acceptance of concurrent jurisdiction over Big Hole national battlefield.
2-1-214. Concurrent jurisdiction of the United States over certain lands dedicated to national park purposes.
2-1-215. Acceptance of jurisdiction over federal lands.
2-1-216. Filing of acceptance of jurisdiction over federal lands.

Part 3 — Jurisdiction on Indian Lands and Indian Culture

2-1-301. Assumption of criminal jurisdiction of Flathead Indian country — county reimbursement.
2-1-302. Resolution of Indian tribes requesting state jurisdiction — governor's proclamation — consent of county commissioners.
2-1-303. Date of assumption of jurisdiction — application of state law in Indian country.
2-1-304. Rights, privileges, and immunities reserved to Indians.
2-1-305. Indian culture protected.
2-1-306. Withdrawal of consent to state jurisdiction.
2-1-307. Service of process.
2-1-308 through 2-1-314 reserved.
2-1-315. Tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance — allowed at public events.

Part 4 — Federal Mandates Act

2-1-401. Short title.
2-1-402. Legislative declaration.

2-1-403. Definitions.
2-1-404. State programs to implement federal statutes.
2-1-405. Requirement for budget recommendation — reporting on federal mandates — savings.
2-1-406. Information regarding federal mandates.
2-1-407. Report — recommendations.
2-1-408. Legislative review and oversight.
2-1-409. Review of presidential executive orders — restriction.

Part 5 — Federal Health Insurance Purchase Requirement

2-1-501. Legislative finding — direction to state agencies not to administer health insurance purchase requirement.

Part 6 — Sanctuary Jurisdictions — Prohibitions

2-1-601. Definitions.
2-1-602. Sanctuary jurisdiction prohibited — exception.
2-1-603. Monitoring and compliance.
2-1-604. Standing — venue — notifications.
2-1-605. Penalties — exemptions.

Part 1
Sovereignty and Jurisdiction of the State

2-1-101. Sovereignty and style of process. The sovereignty of the state resides in the people thereof, but the style of all process must be "The State of Montana", and all prosecutions must be conducted in the name of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 30, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 20, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 19, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 30; re-en. Sec. 19, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-101.**

Cross-References

Popular sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

2-1-102. Sovereignty and jurisdiction of the state. The sovereignty and jurisdiction of this state extend to all places within its boundaries as established by the constitution, excepting such places as are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States.

History: **En. Sec. 40, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 21, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 20, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 33; re-en. Sec. 20, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-102(part).**

Cross-References

Compact with United States, Art. I, Mont. Const.
Disclaimer to Indian lands, The Enabling Act, sec. 4 (see anno. vol. 1).

2-1-103. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 184, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 50, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 25, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 26, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 37; re-en. Sec. 26, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-201.**

Part 2
Cession and Retrocession of Jurisdiction

Part Cross-References

Consent and assent of state relating to federal fish and wildlife projects and reserves, Title 87, ch. 1, part 7.

2-1-201. Jurisdiction in federal enclaves. The extent of the jurisdiction of this state over places that have been or may be ceded to, purchased, or condemned by the United States is qualified by the terms of such cession or the laws under which such purchase or condemnation has been or may be made.

History: **En. Sec. 40, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 21, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 20, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 33; re-en. Sec. 20, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-102(part).**

2-1-202. Jurisdiction over lands purchased by United States — reservation of rights to state. Pursuant to Article I, section 8, paragraph 17, of the constitution of the United States, consent to purchase is hereby given and exclusive jurisdiction is ceded to the United States over and with respect to any lands within the limits of this state that are acquired by the complete purchase by the United States for any of the purposes described in paragraph 17 of the constitution of the United States. The jurisdiction must continue as long as the lands are held and occupied by the United States for the described purposes. The state reserves the right to serve and execute civil or criminal process lawfully issued by the courts of the state within the limits of the territory over which jurisdiction is ceded in any suits or transactions for or on account of any rights obtained, obligations incurred, or crimes committed in this state, within or outside of the territory. The state also reserves the right to tax persons and corporations and their franchises and property within the territory. The state and its inhabitants and citizens reserve the right to fish and hunt and the right of access, ingress, and egress to and through the ceded territory to all persons owning or controlling livestock for the purpose of watering the livestock. The state reserves jurisdiction in the enforcement of state laws relating to the duties of the department of livestock and the department of environmental quality and the enforcement of any regulations promulgated by the departments in accordance with the laws of the state. Jurisdiction does not vest until the United States, through the proper officers, files an accurate map or plat and description by metes and bounds of the lands in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the lands are situated. If the lands are within the corporate limits of any city, the map or plat must also be filed in the office of the city clerk of the city. The filing of the map constitutes acceptance of the jurisdiction by the United States as ceded.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 52, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 43, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 24, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 25, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 25, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 83-108(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Department of Livestock, Title 2, ch. 15, part 31.

Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.

2-1-203. Withdrawal of offer to cede legislative jurisdiction. The offer by the state of Montana to cede to the federal government legislative jurisdiction over areas within the state of Montana as contained in the act of the second legislative assembly of the state of Montana, 1891, entitled: “An Act Giving the Consent of the State of Montana to the Purchase, by the United States, of Land in any City or Town of the State, for the Purpose of United States Courthouse, Post Office and for Other Purposes” approved March 5, 1891, as amended by the act of the third legislative assembly of 1893, an act entitled: “An Act Giving the Consent of the State of Montana to the Purchase by the United States of Land in any City or Town of the State for the Purpose of United States Courthouse, Post Offices and for Other Like Purposes”, approved March 9, 1893, is hereby withdrawn except as to areas heretofore completely purchased or acquired by the federal government and over which areas the federal government has heretofore assumed either exclusive legislative jurisdiction or concurrent legislative jurisdiction under the terms of one or the other of said acts.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 52, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 43, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 24, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 25, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 25, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 83-108(part).

2-1-204. Military reservations — service of process. (1) Authority is granted to and acknowledged in the United States to exercise exclusive legislation as provided by the constitution of the United States over the military reservation of Fort Missoula as established by law to the same extent and with the same effect as if the reservation had been purchased by the United States by consent of the legislative assembly of the state of Montana so long as it remains a military reservation.

(2) All legal process of the state, both civil and criminal, may be served upon persons and property found within the reservation in all cases where the United States does not have exclusive jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 41, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 22, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 21, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 21, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-103(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1979.

2-1-205. Glacier national park. Exclusive jurisdiction shall be and the same is hereby ceded to the United States over and within all the territory which is now or may hereafter be included in that tract of land in the state of Montana set aside by the act of congress, approved May 11, 1910, for the purposes of a national park, and known and designated as “The Glacier national park”, saving, however, to the said state the right to serve civil or criminal process within the limits of the aforesaid park in any suits or prosecution for or on account of rights acquired, obligations incurred, or crimes committed in said state but outside of said park; and saving, further, to the state the right to tax persons and corporations, their franchises and property on the lands included in said park; provided, however, that jurisdiction shall not vest until the United States, through the proper officers, notifies the governor of this state that it assumes police or military jurisdiction over said park.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 22, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 22, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-104.**

2-1-206. Cession and retrocession of jurisdiction over Blackfeet highway. (1) Concurrent police jurisdiction shall be and the same is hereby granted to the United States of America over and within all the territory which is now or may hereafter be included in the rights-of-way of the Blackfeet highway, including the highway itself throughout its length between Glacier Park Station and the Canadian boundary line and the rights-of-way of the highways on the Blackfeet Indian reservation connecting the Blackfeet highway with the Glacier park road system, including the highways themselves.

(2) Jurisdiction herein granted shall not vest until the United States of America, through the proper officers, notifies the governor of the state of Montana that it assumes concurrent police jurisdiction over the said rights-of-way and the said highways.

(3) The provisions of the act of congress of March 15, 1958, Public Law 85-343, 85th congress, S.1828, 72 Stat. 35-36, to retrocede to the state of Montana such concurrent police jurisdiction as has been ceded to the United States of America over the rights-of-way of the Blackfeet highway, including the highway itself, and over the rights-of-way of its connection with the Glacier national park road system on the Blackfeet Indian reservation, including the highways themselves, are hereby accepted by the state of Montana as required by section 2 of said act of March 15, 1958 (72 Stat. 35-36), with the understanding on the part of the state of Montana that the laws and regulations of the United States of America pertaining to Glacier national park shall cease to apply to the territory of said rights-of-way and highways as in said act of the congress made and provided.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 26.1, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 83-111, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 37, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 26.2, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 83-112, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1963; Sec. 83-104.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 83-104.1, 83-111, 83-112.**

Cross-References

Minnie Spotted-Wolf memorial highway, 60-1-234.

2-1-207. Yellowstone national park. Exclusive jurisdiction shall be and the same is hereby ceded to the United States over all that part of territory situate in the state of Montana now embraced in the Yellowstone national park, described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the east boundary of Yellowstone park with the south boundary of Montana; thence north to the northeast corner of said park; thence west along the north boundary of the park to the northwest corner thereof; thence south along the west boundary of the park to the boundary between Montana and Idaho; thence easterly along that boundary to the west boundary of Wyoming; thence north along the west boundary of Wyoming to the northwest corner thereof; thence east along the boundary between Wyoming and Montana to the east boundary of said park, the place of beginning; containing an area of approximately 198 square miles, saving, however, to the said state the right to serve civil or criminal process within the limits of the aforesaid described lands in suits or prosecutions for or on account of rights acquired, obligations incurred, or crimes committed in said state but outside the lands aforesaid, as long as the lands herein described are used for a national park and no other purposes.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 23, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 23, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 83-106.**

2-1-208. Withdrawal of consent to purchase additional state lands for national park. The consent of the state of Montana to the purchase by the United States of lands within the state of Montana to be embraced in Yellowstone national park, other than the lands described in 2-1-207, and the consent of the state of Montana to the exercise of legislative jurisdiction by the United States over any additional lands to be embraced in said national park, as such consents may be contained in the act of the second legislative assembly of the state of Montana approved February 14, 1891, entitled, “An Act Ceding to the United States Jurisdiction Over Certain Lands” or any amendment of said act is hereby withdrawn, and exclusive legislative jurisdiction over all lands within the state of Montana that may be added hereafter to said national park shall be retained in the state of Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 142, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 83-107.**

2-1-209. Concurrent jurisdiction over Fort Peck Dam ceded to United States — reservation of rights to state. Consent to purchase or condemn all necessary lands is hereby given and concurrent jurisdiction is ceded to the United States over the Fort Peck Dam, the body of water or artificial lake created by the dam, the land under the body of water, and any lands now owned or that may be acquired by the United States and that touch the body of water, all such land and water being situated in the counties of Valley, Phillips, McCone, Garfield, Petroleum, and Fergus, state of Montana. The state reserves the right to serve civil or criminal process within the limits of the territory over which jurisdiction is ceded in any suits or prosecutions for or on account of rights obtained, obligations incurred, or crimes committed in this state, within or outside of the territory. The state also reserves the right to tax persons and corporations and their franchises and property within the territory. The state and its inhabitants, citizens, and nonresidents reserve the right to fish or hunt by boat or otherwise and the right of access, ingress, and egress to and through the ceded territory to all persons owning or controlling livestock for the purpose of watering the livestock. The state reserves jurisdiction in the enforcement of state laws relating to the duties of the department of livestock and the department of environmental quality and the enforcement of regulations promulgated by the departments in accordance with the laws of the state. Jurisdiction does not vest until the United States, through the proper officers, notifies the governor of the state of Montana that it assumes police or military jurisdiction over the territory.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 50, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 25.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 83-109; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Department of Livestock, Title 2, ch. 15, part 31.

Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.

2-1-210. Consent to purchase of lands by United States for national forest purposes — jurisdiction. (1) For the purpose of more effectively cooperating with the United States in the consolidating and rounding out of national forests in accordance with land use plans and to facilitate the placing of forest lands other than national forest but which are integral with national forest lands under stable protection and administration to the end of public benefit and to help landowners, including the counties of the state in their discretion, to dispose of such of their lands as may be needed for national forest purposes, consent of the state of Montana is hereby given to the purchase by the United States of such lands in the state of Montana as in the opinion of the secretary of agriculture are needed for the purposes contemplated in section 6 of the act of congress approved March 1, 1911, commonly known as and called the Weeks law, and/or section 6 of the act of congress approved June 7, 1924, commonly known as the Clarke-McNary law, and/or any other provisions of any act of congress authorizing the purchase of land for national forest purposes.

(2) The jurisdiction of the state of Montana, both civil and criminal, over persons upon areas acquired under this section shall not be affected or changed by reason of their acquisition and administration by the United States, except so far as the punishment of offenses against the United States is concerned.

(3) The state shall have the same jurisdiction in respect to such lands as it has in respect to other national forest lands within the state.

(4) All property rights, easements, and benefits retained by or reserved to owners of lands purchased by the United States shall be subject to the tax laws of the state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 25.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-110.

2-1-211. Consent to purchase lands for migratory bird reservations — jurisdiction. Consent of the state of Montana is given to the acquisition by the United States by purchase, gift, devise, or lease of such areas of land, water, or land and water in the state of Montana as the United States may deem necessary for the establishment of migratory bird reservations in accordance with the act of congress approved February 18, 1929, (as amended), entitled "An Act to More Effectively Meet the Obligations of the United States under the Migratory Bird Treaty with Great Britain by Lessening the Dangers Threatening Migratory Game Birds from Drainage and Other Causes by the Acquisition of Areas of Land and of Water to Furnish in Perpetuity Reservations for the Adequate Protection of such Birds; and Authorizing Appropriations for the Establishment of such Areas, their Maintenance and Improvement and for Other Purposes", reserving, however, to the state of Montana full and complete jurisdiction and authority over all such areas not incompatible with the administration, maintenance, protection, and control thereof by the United States under the terms of said act of congress.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 96, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 83-113.**

2-1-212. Acceptance of concurrent jurisdiction over veterans center. The state of Montana hereby accepts the cession of concurrent jurisdiction with the United States over the real property comprising the veterans center, Fort Harrison, Montana, as ceded by Public Law 91-45, 88 Stat. 48, which was approved July 19, 1969, and made effective upon acceptance of the cession by the state of Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 83-114; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

2-1-213. Acceptance of concurrent jurisdiction over Big Hole national battlefield. The state of Montana accepts the retrocession in Public Law 88-24, which was approved May 17, 1963, and made effective upon acceptance of the retrocession by the state of Montana of such jurisdiction as had been ceded by this state to the United States over the lands within the boundaries of the Big Hole national battlefield. This state recognizes the reservation in the United States of concurrent legislative jurisdiction over such lands.

History: **En. 83-115 by Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 83-115.**

2-1-214. Concurrent jurisdiction of the United States over certain lands dedicated to national park purposes. (1) Concurrent jurisdiction over crimes and offenses under the laws of the state is ceded to the United States over and within all the lands dedicated to national park purposes in the following tracts:

(a) Big Horn Canyon;
(b) Grant-Kohrs national historic site;
(c) Big Hole national battlefield; and
(d) Fort Union trading post.

(2) The concurrent jurisdiction ceded by subsection (1) is vested upon acceptance by the United States by and through its appropriate officials and shall continue so long as the lands within the designated areas are dedicated to park purposes.

History: **En Sec. 1, Ch. 302, L. 1979.**

2-1-215. Acceptance of jurisdiction over federal lands. The consent of the state is hereby given to the retrocession of jurisdiction, either partially or wholly, by the United States of America over lands owned by the United States of America within the boundaries of Montana that are used for national park purposes. The governor is authorized to accept for the state retrocession of jurisdiction.

History: **En Sec. 2, Ch. 302, L. 1979.**

2-1-216. Filing of acceptance of jurisdiction over federal lands. (1) When the state receives written notification from the authorized official or agent of the United States of America that the United States desires or is willing to relinquish to the state jurisdiction, or a portion thereof, over certain lands owned by the United States within Montana that are used for national park purposes, the governor may accept relinquishment.

(2) After acceptance and approval by the governor, retrocession of jurisdiction becomes effective upon filing of the original acceptance with the secretary of state of Montana.

History: **En Sec. 3, Ch. 302, L. 1979.**

Part 3
Jurisdiction on Indian Lands and Indian Culture

Part Cross-References

State-tribal cooperative agreements, Title 18, ch. 11.
Minnie Spotted-Wolf memorial highway, 60-1-234.

2-1-301. *(Temporary)* **Assumption of criminal jurisdiction of Flathead Indian country — county reimbursement.** (1) The state of Montana hereby obligates and binds itself to assume, as provided in this section, criminal jurisdiction over Indians and Indian territory of the Flathead Indian reservation and country within the state in accordance with the consent of the United States given by the act of August 15, 1953 (Public Law 280, 83rd congress, 1st session).

(2) Unless the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes or Lake County withdraws consent to enforcement pursuant to 2-1-306, the state shall reimburse Lake County for assuming criminal jurisdiction under this section annually to the extent funds are appropriated by the legislature. The annual amount of reimbursement must be adjusted each year based on the consumer price index. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 5, Ch. 556, L. 2021.)*

2-1-301. *(Effective July 1, 2027)* **Assumption of criminal jurisdiction of Flathead Indian country.** The state of Montana hereby obligates and binds itself to assume, as herein provided, criminal jurisdiction over Indians and Indian territory of the Flathead Indian reservation and country within the state in accordance with the consent of the United States given by the act of August 15, 1953 (Public Law 280, 83rd congress, 1st session).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 83-801; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 556, L. 2021.

2-1-302. Resolution of Indian tribes requesting state jurisdiction — governor's proclamation — consent of county commissioners. (1) Whenever the governor of this state receives from the tribal council or other governing body of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Indian tribes or any other community, band, or group of Indians in this state, a resolution expressing its desire that its people and lands be subject to the criminal or civil jurisdiction, or both, of the state to the extent authorized by federal law and regulation, the governor shall issue within 60 days a proclamation to the effect that the specified jurisdiction applies to those Indians and their territory or reservation in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(2) The governor may not issue the proclamation until the resolution has been approved in the manner provided for by the charter, constitution, or other fundamental law of the tribe, if the document provides for approval, and there has been first obtained the consent of the board of county commissioners of each county that encompasses any portion of the reservation of the tribe.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 81, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 83-802; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-1-303. Date of assumption of jurisdiction — application of state law in Indian country. Sixty days from the date of issuance of the proclamation of the governor as provided for by 2-1-302, the state of Montana shall assume jurisdiction over offenses committed by or against Indians in the lands prescribed in the proclamation to the same extent that this state has jurisdiction over offenses committed elsewhere within this state. The criminal and/or civil laws of this state shall have the same force and effect within such lands as they have elsewhere within this state.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 81, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 83-803.

2-1-304. Rights, privileges, and immunities reserved to Indians. Nothing in this part shall:

(1) authorize the alienation, encumbrance, or taxation of any real or personal property, including water rights, belonging to any Indian or any Indian tribe, band, or community that is held in trust by the United States;

(2) authorize regulation of the use of such property in a manner inconsistent with any federal treaty, agreement, or statute or with any regulation made pursuant thereto;

(3) confer jurisdiction upon the state of Montana to adjudicate, in probate proceedings or otherwise, the ownership or right to possession of such property or any interest therein; or

(4) deprive any Indian or any Indian tribe, band, or community of any right, privilege, or immunity afforded under federal treaty, agreement, statute, or executive order with respect to hunting, trapping, fishing, or the control, licensing, or regulation thereof.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 81, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 83-804.

Cross-References

Compact with United States — reaffirmation of state disclaimers concerning Indian land, Art. I, Mont. Const.

2-1-305. Indian culture protected. Nothing in this part shall deprive the Indian tribe, band, or community from carrying on its age-old tribal dances, feasting, or customary Indian celebrations or in any way try to destroy the Indian culture.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 81, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 83-805.

Cross-References

Educational goal to preserve Indian cultural integrity, Art. X, sec. 1(2), Mont. Const.

2-1-306. *(Temporary)* **Withdrawal of consent to state jurisdiction.** (1) No sooner than 6 months after April 24, 1993, and after consulting with local government officials concerning implementation, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes may, by tribal resolution, withdraw consent to be subject to the criminal jurisdiction of the state of Montana. Within 6 months after receipt of the resolution, the governor shall issue a proclamation to that effect.

(2) The Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes may, by separate resolution, withdraw consent to be subject to those areas of civil jurisdiction of the state of Montana that are delineated in tribal ordinance 40-A (revised and enacted May 5, 1965). The withdrawal is limited to those delineated areas of civil jurisdiction agreed upon in writing by the governor after consultation with the attorney general and officials of affected local governments. The tribes shall initiate this process by sending a certified letter to the governor. After consultation and execution of a written agreement between the governor and the tribes, the agreed-upon civil areas must be incorporated into a tribal resolution to be enacted by the tribes. Within 6 months after receipt of the tribal resolution, the governor shall issue a proclamation to that effect that reflects the terms of the written agreement.

(3) No sooner than 6 months after July 1, 2021, and after consulting with tribal government officials concerning withdrawal, the board of county commissioners of Lake County may, by resolution, withdraw consent to enforce criminal jurisdiction on behalf of the state of Montana over the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes. Within 6 months after receipt of the resolution, the governor shall issue a proclamation to that effect.

(4) Subsections (1) through (3) do not alter the existing jurisdiction or authority of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes or the state of Montana, except as expressly provided for in subsections (1) through (3). *(Terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 5, Ch. 556, L. 2021.)*

2-1-306. *(Effective July 1, 2027)* **Withdrawal of consent to state jurisdiction.** (1) No sooner than 6 months after April 24, 1993, and after consulting with local government officials concerning implementation, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes may, by tribal resolution, withdraw consent to be subject to the criminal jurisdiction of the state of Montana. Within 6 months after receipt of the resolution, the governor shall issue a proclamation to that effect.

(2) The Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes may, by separate resolution, withdraw consent to be subject to those areas of civil jurisdiction of the state of Montana that are delineated in tribal ordinance 40-A (revised and enacted May 5, 1965). The withdrawal is limited to those delineated areas of civil jurisdiction agreed upon in writing by the governor after consultation with the attorney general and officials of affected local governments. The tribes shall initiate this process by sending a certified letter to the governor. After consultation and execution of a written agreement between the governor and the tribes, the agreed-upon civil areas must be incorporated into a tribal resolution to be enacted by the tribes. Within 6 months after receipt of the tribal resolution, the governor shall issue a proclamation to that effect that reflects the terms of the written agreement.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not alter the existing jurisdiction or authority of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes or the state of Montana, except as expressly provided for in subsections (1) and (2).

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 81, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 83-806; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 542, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 406, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 556, L. 2021.**

2-1-307. Service of process. All legal process of the state, both civil and criminal, may be served upon persons and property found on any Indian reservation in all cases where the United States has not exclusive jurisdiction.

History: **En. Sec. 41, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 22, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 21, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 21, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 83-103(part).**

2-1-308 through 2-1-314 reserved.

2-1-315. Tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance — allowed at public events. (1) The purpose of this section is to help further the state's recognition of the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and the state's commitment to preserving the American Indians' cultural integrity as provided in Article X, section 1(2), of the Montana constitution.

(2) A state agency or a local government may not prohibit an individual from wearing traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at a public event.

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Individual" means a human being regardless of age.

(b) "Local government" has the meaning provided in 2-2-102.

(c) "Public event" means an event held or sponsored by a state agency or a local government, including but not limited to an award ceremony, a graduation ceremony, or a public meeting.

(d) "State agency" has the meaning provided in 1-2-116.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 2017.

Part 4
Federal Mandates Act

2-1-401. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Federal Mandates Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 385, L. 1995.

2-1-402. Legislative declaration. (1) (a) In enacting this part, the legislature employs its legislative authority to establish that the people of the state of Montana, acting through their elected officials in state government, have the responsibility and authority to establish policy in and for Montana pertaining to federal programs mandated in federal statutes.

(b) The intent of the legislature is to ensure the primacy of the state of Montana's legal and political authority to implement in and for Montana the policy mandated by federal statutes and to vigorously challenge and scrutinize the extent and scope of authority asserted by federal executive branch agencies when federal agency actions and interpretations are inconsistent with Montana policy and exceed the lawful authority of the federal government or are not required by federal law.

(c) In this regard, the Montana legislature finds and declares that:

(i) the power to implement federal policies in and for Montana is central to the ability of the people of Montana to govern themselves under a federal system of government; and

(ii) any implementation of federal policies in and for Montana by federal executive branch agencies that is contrary to fundamental notions of federalism and self-determination must be identified and countered.

(2) The legislature further finds and declares that:

(a) there is an urgent need to modify federal mandates because the implementation of these mandates by the state wastes the financial resources of local governments, the citizens of Montana, and the state and does not properly respect the rights of local governments, citizens, and the state;

(b) the state government has an obligation to the public to do what is necessary to protect the rights of Montana citizens under federal law while minimizing or eliminating any additional cost or regulatory burden on any citizen of the state;

(c) the 10th amendment to the United States constitution directs that powers that are not delegated to the United States are reserved to the states or to the people. Montana, as one of the sovereign states within the union, has constitutional authority to enact laws protecting the environment of the state and safeguarding the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. However, this authority has too often been ignored by the federal government. The federal government has intruded more and more into areas that must be left to the states. It is essential that the dilution of the authority of state and local governments be halted and that the provisions of the 10th amendment be accorded proper respect.

(d) current federal regulatory mandates, as reflected in federal administrative regulations, guidelines, and policies, often do not reflect the realities of the Rocky Mountain region, and federal regulators frequently do not understand the needs and priorities of the citizens of Montana;

(e) the citizens of this state can create and wish to create innovative solutions to Montana's problems, but the current manner in which legal challenges to state policies and federal programmatic substitutions of state programs are handled does not allow the state the flexibility it needs. It is not possible for the state of Montana to effectively and efficiently implement the provisions of federal statutes unless the burden to prove the insufficiency of the state's efforts to implement federal requirements is shifted to the person or agency who asserts the insufficiency.

(f) the provisions of this part will better balance the exercise of the powers of the federal government and the powers reserved to the states. In addition, the application of this part ultimately will bring about greater protection for the state and the nation because it will direct the state to implement federal statutes at the least possible cost and will make more money available for other needs.

(g) the purpose of this part is to ensure that federal mandates existing on or adopted after April 12, 1995, that are implemented in Montana comply with state policy as established by the legislature;

(h) nothing in this part may be construed to create a private cause of action.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 385, L. 1995.

2-1-403. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Federal statute" means a federal statute that is in accord with the United States constitution and that imposes mandates on state or local governments.

(2) "Legislative council" means the statutory committee established in 5-11-101.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 385, L. 1995.

2-1-404. State programs to implement federal statutes. (1) A state official or employee charged with the duty of implementing a federal statute shall implement the law as required by the federal statute in good faith and with a critical view toward the provisions of any federal regulation, guideline, or policy in order to identify those provisions of any federal regulation, guideline, or policy that are inconsistent with Montana policy or do not advance Montana policy in a cost-effective manner.

(2) An executive branch agency of state government that is authorized to develop a state program to respond to any mandates contained in a federal statute shall develop the state program and promulgate any necessary rules, using the following criteria:

(a) State programs should be developed by the state agency to meet the requirements of federal statutes in good faith and with a critical view toward any federal regulations, guidelines, or policies.

(b) State programs should be developed with due consideration of the financial restraints of local governments, the citizens of Montana, and the state, including the limitation imposed by Article VIII, section 9, of the Montana constitution.

(c) A state program that implements the goals of the federal statute should provide for the most efficient method possible, with careful consideration given to the cost of the program and the impact of the program on local governments and Montana citizens and on the long-range public health, safety, and welfare of citizens of the state.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 385, L. 1995.

2-1-405. Requirement for budget recommendation — reporting on federal mandates — savings. Prior to recommending to the legislature a budget for a state agency that is charged with implementing federal mandates, the governor shall require that the state agency provide information regarding any monetary savings for the state and any reduction in regulatory burdens on local governments and on the public that could be or have been achieved through the development of state policies that meet the intent of applicable federal statutes but do not necessarily follow all applicable federal regulations, guidelines, or policies. The state agency shall also provide advice to the governor regarding any changes in state statutes that are necessary to provide the state agency the authority to implement state policies in such a way as to create additional savings or greater reductions in regulatory burdens. The governor shall review and compile the information received from state agencies pursuant to this section and shall include recommendations in the governor's budget based upon the information.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 385, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Budget systems and program plans, Title 17, ch. 7. part 1.

2-1-406. Information regarding federal mandates. (1) The information prepared pursuant to 2-1-405 must be received by the governor prior to the governor's preparation of the state budget for the ensuing biennium. The governor may prepare additional requests for information to follow up and obtain further details regarding the initial responses that were received.

(2) In considering the legality or cost-effectiveness of a federal mandate, federal statute, or state program, the governor may request assistance from the legislative council or its staff, but assistance is at the discretion of the legislative council.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 385, L. 1995.

2-1-407. Report — recommendations. (1) The governor shall examine the information received pursuant to 2-1-405 and, based upon the information, present a report to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210 that includes:

(a) recommendations regarding contracts that the state may enter into with specified persons or entities to conduct research, to analyze certain subjects, or to provide other services regarding federal mandates; and

(b) estimates of the cost of the federal mandate efforts submitted to the governor under the provisions of 2-1-405.

(2) If there is a finding that a federal mandate does not meet Montana's cost-effective needs, does not serve Montana public policy, or does not conform to Montana customs and culture, the governor may issue an executive order declaring the intention of Montana to not implement the mandate and may direct the attorney general to vigorously represent the state of Montana in any action that results from or that is necessary to effect the executive order.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 385, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

2-1-408. Legislative review and oversight. (1) In exercising its authority as an equal branch of state government, the legislature may conduct any legal review or fiscal analysis that it considers necessary to effect the purpose and intent of this part. The governor, the director or chief executive officer of any agency within the executive branch, or any officer listed in Article VI, section 1, of the Montana constitution shall, upon request by the legislature, immediately provide any information prepared, compiled, developed, detailed, described, referenced, analyzed, reported, or in any other manner considered in conjunction with this part.

(2) In receiving the information described in subsection (1), the legislature is bound by the provisions of Article II, sections 9 and 10, of the Montana constitution.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the legislature includes the senate and the house of representatives, acting jointly or separately, and includes the legislative council.

(4) The legislature may request the assistance of any staff employed by the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 385, L. 1995.

2-1-409. Review of presidential executive orders — restriction. (1) The legislative council may review an executive order issued by the president of the United States that has not been affirmed by a vote of congress and signed into law as prescribed by the constitution of the United States and recommend to the attorney general and the governor that the executive order be further reviewed. After receiving a recommendation from the legislative council or on the attorney general's own initiative, the attorney general shall review the executive order to determine the constitutionality of the order and whether to recommend that the state seek an exemption from the application of the order or seek to have the order declared to be an unconstitutional exercise of authority by the president.

(2) The state, a political subdivision, or an organization receiving public funds from the state may not implement an executive order that the attorney general determines to be unconstitutional under subsection (1) and that relates to:

(a) pandemics or other public health emergencies;

(b) the regulation of natural resources or their exploration or development, including but not limited to coal and oil;

(c) the regulation of the agriculture industry;

(d) the use of land;

(e) the regulation of the financial sector as it relates to environmental, social, or governance standards; or

(f) any regulation affecting the constitutional rights of state residents, including but not limited to the right to keep and bear arms.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Prohibited transactions with foreign adversaries, 35-30-103.

Part 5
Federal Health Insurance Purchase Requirement

2-1-501. Legislative finding — direction to state agencies not to administer health insurance purchase requirement. (1) The legislature finds that the enactment by the U.S. congress of Public Law 111-148 and Public Law 111-152, requiring individuals to purchase health insurance and imposing on certain employers a liability for an assessable payment for not contributing toward employees' health insurance, will cause unneeded expense and inconvenience to individuals without health insurance and to those certain employers.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 2, chapter 1, part 4, an agency of this state, as defined in 2-18-101, may not implement or enforce in any way the provisions of Public Law 111-148 and Public Law 111-152 or any federal regulation or policy implementing Public Law 111-148 and Public Law 111-152 that relates to the requirement for individuals to purchase health insurance and maintain minimum essential health insurance coverage.

(3) In addition to the provisions in subsection (2), the prohibition under this section includes:

(a) for the purposes of public employers, a prohibition on requiring any employee as defined in 2-18-701 to obtain or maintain a policy of health insurance to comply with Public Law 111-148 and Public Law 111-152; and

(b) participation by a state official or state employee on a board, a study commission, or a related entity of the national association of insurance commissioners assigned to recommend provisions to implement the individual mandate to purchase health insurance under the federal health care reforms provided in Public Law 111-148 and Public Law 111-152.

(4) This section does not interfere with:

(a) voluntary actions taken by individuals to purchase health insurance or to participate in health insurance exchanges; or

(b) the state requirement to purchase motor vehicle liability insurance as provided in 61-6-301.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 402, L. 2011.**

Part 6
Sanctuary Jurisdictions — Prohibitions

Part Cross-References

Immigration detainer request arrests, Title 27, ch. 16, part 8.

2-1-601. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Local government" means a municipality, a county, or a consolidated city-county government.

(2) "Policy" means a formal or informal rule, order, ordinance, or policy, whether written or unwritten.

(3) "State agency" means an office, position, commission, committee, board, department, council, division, bureau, section, or any other entity or instrumentality of the executive branch of state government.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 2021.**

2-1-602. Sanctuary jurisdiction prohibited — exception. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a state agency or local government may not enact, adopt, implement, enforce, or refer to the electorate a policy that prohibits or restricts a government entity, official, or employee from:

(a) sending to, receiving from, exchanging with, or maintaining for a federal, state, or local government entity information regarding a person's citizenship or immigration status for a lawful purpose;

(b) complying with a notification request concerning the release of an individual if the request is lawfully made by the United States department of homeland security acting pursuant to its authority under 8 U.S.C. 1226 and 1357 as those sections read on March 31, 2021; or

(c) complying with an immigration detainer request if:

(i) the request is lawfully made by the United States department of homeland security acting pursuant to its authority under 8 U.S.C. 1226 and 1357 as those sections read on March 31, 2021; and

(ii) the arrest is authorized under state law.

(2) A state agency or local government may not be considered in violation of this section based solely on a policy otherwise subject to subsection (1) that exclusively concerns an individual who comes forward as a victim of or a witness to a criminal offense.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 101, L. 2021.

2-1-603. Monitoring and compliance. (1) The attorney general shall:

(a) monitor state and local government compliance with the provisions of 2-1-602; and

(b) investigate compliance complaints.

(2) If an investigation by the attorney general finds that a state agency or local government has violated the provisions of 2-1-602, the attorney general shall bring a civil action against the state agency or local government.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 101, L. 2021.

2-1-604. Standing — venue — notifications. (1) The attorney general has standing to bring a civil action under this part to compel compliance by a state agency or local government.

(2) An action under this part must be instituted in the state district court for the county in which the local government or state agency is located.

(3) If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that a local government has violated the provisions of this part, the attorney general shall notify the coal board provided for in 2-15-1821 and the department of commerce for the purpose of compliance with 90-6-209 and 90-6-710. If the attorney general finds that the local government comes into compliance with the provisions of this part, the attorney general shall certify to the coal board and the department of commerce that the local government is no longer in violation of the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 101, L. 2021.

2-1-605. Penalties — exemptions. (1) In addition to any other penalties or remedies provided by law and except as provided in subsection (3), a state agency or local government that violates the provisions of 2-1-602 shall be punished by a fine of $10,000 every 5 days that the state agency or local government is not in compliance with the provisions of 2-1-602.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a local government that is in violation of 2-1-602 may not:

(a) receive new grants awarded under the provisions of Title 90, chapter 6, part 2; or

(b) have projects prioritized or recommended by the department of commerce for infrastructure projects under the provisions of Title 90, chapter 6, part 7.

(3) A state agency or local government may not be penalized under this section if the state or local government comes into compliance with the provisions of this part within 14 days after the filing of an action under 2-1-604.

(4) A fine collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 101, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 2
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Part 1 — Code of Ethics

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2-2-112. Ethical requirements for legislators.
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2-2-138. Repealed.
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2-2-140. Repealed.
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Chapter Cross-References

Elected official's business disclosure statement, 2-2-106.

Arrest of public officer in certain civil actions involving officer's act or omission, 27-16-102.

Part 1
Code of Ethics

Part Cross-References

Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.

Judges — removal and discipline, Art. VII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

2-2-101. Statement of purpose. The purpose of this part is to set forth a code of ethics prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interest as required by the constitution of Montana. This code recognizes distinctions between judges, legislators, judicial officers, other officers and employees of state government, and officers and employees of local government and prescribes some standards of conduct common to all categories and some standards of conduct adapted to each category. The provisions of this part recognize that some actions are conflicts per se between public duty and private interest while other actions may or may not pose such conflicts depending upon the surrounding circumstances.

History: En. 59-1701 by Sec. 1, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1701; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 440, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 440, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Constitutional mandate to provide code of ethics, Art. XIII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

Code of fair campaign practices, 13-35-301.

2-2-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Business" includes a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, trust or foundation, or any other individual or organization carrying on a business, whether or not operated for profit.

(2) "Compensation" means any money or economic benefit conferred on or received by any person in return for services rendered or to be rendered by the person or another.

(3) (a) "Gift of substantial value" means a gift with a value of $100 or more for an individual.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a gift that is not used and that, within 30 days after receipt, is returned to the donor or delivered to a charitable organization or the state and that is not claimed as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes;

(ii) food and beverages consumed on the occasion when participation in a charitable, civic, or community event bears a relationship to the public officer's or public employee's office or employment or when the officer or employee is in attendance in an official capacity;

(iii) educational material directly related to official governmental duties;

(iv) an award publicly presented in recognition of public service; or

(v) educational activity that:

(A) does not place or appear to place the recipient under obligation;

(B) clearly serves the public good; and

(C) is not lavish or extravagant.

(4) "Judicial officer" includes all judicial officers, justices, district court judges, and judges of the judicial branch of state government.

(5) (a) "Local government" means a county, a consolidated government, an incorporated city or town, a school district, or a special district.

(b) The term does not include a district court or an entity under the control of the judicial branch of state government.

(6) "Official act" or "official action" means a vote, decision, recommendation, approval, disapproval, or other action, including inaction, that involves the use of discretionary authority.

(7) "Private interest" means an interest held by an individual that is:

(a) an ownership interest in a business;

(b) a creditor interest in an insolvent business;

(c) an employment or prospective employment for which negotiations have begun;

(d) an ownership interest in real property;

(e) a loan or other debtor interest; or

(f) a directorship or officership in a business.

(8) "Public employee" means:

(a) any temporary or permanent employee of the state, including an employee of the judicial branch;

(b) any temporary or permanent employee of a local government;

(c) a member of a quasi-judicial board or commission or of a board, commission, or committee with rulemaking authority; and

(d) a person under contract to the state.

(9) "Public information" has the meaning provided in 2-6-1002.

(10) (a) "Public officer" includes any state officer and any elected officer of a local government.

(b) For the purposes of 67-11-104, the term also includes a commissioner of an airport authority.

(11) "Special district" means a unit of local government, authorized by law to perform a single function or a limited number of functions. The term includes but is not limited to conservation districts, water districts, weed management districts, irrigation districts, fire districts, community college districts, hospital districts, sewer districts, and transportation districts. The term also includes any district or other entity formed by interlocal agreement.

(12) (a) "State agency" includes:

(i) the state;

(ii) the legislature and its committees;

(iii) all executive departments, boards, commissions, committees, bureaus, and offices;

(iv) the university system; and

(v) all independent commissions and other establishments of the state government.

(b) The term does not include the judicial branch.

(13) "State letterhead" means an electronic or written document that contains the great seal of the state provided for in 1-1-501 or purports to be a document from the state, a state agency, or a local government.

(14) "State officer" includes all elected officers and directors of the executive branch of state government as defined in 2-15-102 and all judicial officers, justices, district court judges, and judges of the judicial branch of state government.

History: **En. 59-1702 by Sec. 2, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1702; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 156, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 559, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 440, L. 2023, in definition of local government inserted (b) regarding term not including district court or judicial branch entity; in definition of public employee in (a) at end inserted reference to employee of the judicial branch; in definition of state officer inserted references to judicial officers, justices, district court judges, and judicial branch judges; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 559, L. 2023, in definition of gift of substantial value in (a) increased amount from $50 to $100; inserted definitions of judicial officer and state letterhead; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-2-103. Public trust — public duty. (1) The holding of public office or employment is a public trust, created by the confidence that the electorate reposes in the integrity of judicial officers, public officers, legislators, and public employees. A judicial officer, public officer, judge, legislator, or public employee shall carry out the individual's duties for the benefit of the people of the state.

(2) A judicial officer, public officer, judge, legislator, or public employee whose conduct departs from the person's public duty is liable to the people of the state and is subject to the penalties provided in this part for abuse of the public's trust.

(3) This part sets forth various rules of conduct, the transgression of any of which is a violation of public duty, and various ethical principles, the transgression of any of which must be avoided.

(4) (a) The enforcement of this part for:

(i) judicial officers, state officers, judges, legislators, and state employees is provided for in 2-2-136;

(ii) legislators, involving legislative acts, is provided for in 2-2-135 and for all other acts is provided for in 2-2-136;

(iii) local government officers and employees is provided for in 2-2-144.

(b) Any money collected in the civil actions that is not reimbursement for the cost of the action must be deposited in the general fund of the unit of government.

History: **En. 59-1703 by Sec. 3, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1703; amd. Sec. 216, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 122, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 440, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 559, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 3, Ch. 440, L. 2023, in (1) near beginning of second sentence, in (2) near beginning, and in (4)(a)(i) inserted references to judicial officers and judges. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 3, Ch. 559, L. 2023, in (1) near middle of first sentence and near beginning of second sentence, in (2) near beginning, and in (4)(a)(i) inserted references to judicial officers. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

All state officers and employees to be bonded, 2-9-602.

2-2-104. Rules of conduct for public officers, legislators, and public employees. (1) Proof of commission of any act enumerated in this section is proof that the actor has breached the actor's public duty. A public officer, legislator, or public employee may not:

(a) disclose or use confidential information acquired in the course of official duties in order to further substantially the individual's personal economic interests; or

(b) accept a gift of substantial value or a substantial economic benefit tantamount to a gift:

(i) that would tend improperly to influence a reasonable person in the person's position to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of the person's public duties; or

(ii) that the person knows or that a reasonable person in that position should know under the circumstances is primarily for the purpose of rewarding the person for official action taken.

(2) An economic benefit tantamount to a gift includes without limitation a loan at a rate of interest substantially lower than the commercial rate then currently prevalent for similar loans and compensation received for private services rendered at a rate substantially exceeding the fair market value of the services. Campaign contributions reported as required by statute are not gifts or economic benefits tantamount to gifts.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), a public officer, legislator, or public employee may not receive salaries from two separate public employment positions that overlap for the hours being compensated, unless:

(i) the public officer, legislator, or public employee reimburses the public entity from which the employee is absent for the salary paid for performing the function from which the officer, legislator, or employee is absent; or

(ii) the public officer's, legislator's, or public employee's salary from one employer is reduced by the amount of salary received from the other public employer in order to avoid duplicate compensation for the overlapping hours.

(b) Subsection (3)(a) does not prohibit:

(i) a public officer, legislator, or public employee from receiving income from the use of accrued leave or compensatory time during the period of overlapping employment; or

(ii) a public school teacher from receiving payment from a college or university for the supervision of student teachers who are enrolled in a teacher education program at the college or university if the supervision is performed concurrently with the school teacher's duties for a public school district.

(c) In order to determine compliance with this subsection (3), a public officer, legislator, or public employee subject to this subsection (3) shall disclose the amounts received from the two separate public employment positions to the commissioner of political practices.

History: En. 59-1704 by Sec. 4, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1704; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Prohibited campaign practices, Title 13, ch. 35, part 2.
Reports of campaign contributions required, 13-37-225.

2-2-105. Ethical requirements for public officers and public employees. (1) The requirements in this section are intended as rules of conduct, and violations constitute a breach of the public trust and public duty of office or employment in state or local government.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), a public officer or public employee may not acquire an interest in any business or undertaking that the officer or employee has reason to believe may be directly and substantially affected to its economic benefit by official action to be taken by the officer's or employee's agency.

(3) A public officer or public employee may not, within 12 months following the voluntary termination of office or employment, obtain employment in which the officer or employee will take direct advantage, unavailable to others, of matters with which the officer or employee was directly involved during a term of office or during employment. These matters are rules, other than rules of general application, that the officer or employee actively helped to formulate and applications, claims, or contested cases in the consideration of which the officer or employee was an active participant.

(4) When a public employee who is a member of a quasi-judicial board or commission or of a board, commission, or committee with rulemaking authority is required to take official action on a matter as to which the public employee has a conflict created by a personal or private interest that would directly give rise to an appearance of impropriety as to the public employee's influence, benefit, or detriment in regard to the matter, the public employee shall disclose the interest creating the conflict prior to participating in the official action.

(5) A public officer or public employee may not perform an official act directly and substantially affecting a business or other undertaking to its economic detriment when the officer or employee has a substantial personal interest in a competing firm or undertaking.

History: En. 59-1709 by Sec. 9, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1709; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 562, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Definitions of rules and contested cases relating to administrative rules, 2-4-102.
Public contracts generally, Title 18, ch. 1.

2-2-106. Disclosure. (1) (a) Prior to December 15 of each even-numbered year, each state officer, holdover senator, supreme court justice, and district court judge shall file with the commissioner of political practices a business disclosure statement on a form provided by the commissioner. An individual filing pursuant to subsection (1)(b) or (1)(c) is not required to file under this subsection (1)(a) during the same period.

(b) Each candidate for a statewide or a state office elected from a district shall, within 5 days of the time that the candidate files for office, file a business disclosure statement with the commissioner of political practices on a form provided by the commissioner.

(c) An individual appointed to office who would be required to file under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) is required to file the business disclosure statement at the earlier of the time of submission of the person's name for confirmation or the assumption of the office.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), the statement must provide the following information:

(a) the name, address, and type of business of the individual;

(b) each present or past employing entity from which benefits, including retirement benefits, are currently received by the individual;

(c) each business, firm, corporation, partnership, and other business or professional entity or trust in which the individual holds an interest;

(d) each entity not listed under subsections (2)(a) through (2)(c) in which the individual is an officer or director, regardless of whether or not the entity is organized for profit; and

(e) all real property, other than a personal residence, in which the individual holds an interest. Real property may be described by general description.

(3) An individual may not assume or continue to exercise the powers and duties of the office to which that individual has been elected or appointed until the statement has been filed as provided in subsection (1).

(4) An individual required to file a business disclosure statement may certify that the information required by subsection (2) has not changed from the most recent statement filed by the individual. The commissioner shall provide a certification form.

(5) The commissioner of political practices shall make the business disclosure statements and certification forms available to any individual upon request.

History: En. Sec. 16, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 562, L. 1995; Sec. 5-7-213, MCA 1993; redes. 2-2-106 by Code Commissioner, 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 2017.

2-2-107 through 2-2-110 reserved.

2-2-111. Rules of conduct for legislators. Proof of commission of any act enumerated in this section is proof that the legislator committing the act has breached the legislator's public duty. A legislator may not:

(1) accept a fee, contingent fee, or any other compensation, except the official compensation provided by statute, for promoting or opposing the passage of legislation;

(2) seek other employment for the legislator or solicit a contract for the legislator's services by the use of the office;

(3) accept a fee or other compensation, except as provided for in 5-2-302, from a Montana state agency or a political subdivision of the state of Montana for speaking to the agency or political subdivision; or

(4) use the funds provided for in 5-2-204 for an activity that is prohibited.

History: En. 59-1705 by Sec. 5, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1705; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 2, 2023.

Cross-References

Compensation of members of Legislature, Title 5, ch. 2, part 3.

2-2-112. Ethical requirements for legislators. (1) The requirements in this section are intended as rules for legislator conduct, and violations constitute a breach of the public trust of legislative office.

(2) A legislator has a responsibility to the legislator's constituents to participate in all matters as required in the rules of the legislature. A legislator concerned with the possibility of a conflict may briefly present the facts to the committee of that house that is assigned the determination of ethical issues. The committee shall advise the legislator as to whether the legislator should disclose the interest prior to voting on the issue pursuant to the provisions of subsection (5). The legislator may, subject to legislative rule, vote on an issue on which the legislator has a conflict, after disclosing the interest.

(3) When a legislator is required to take official action on a legislative matter as to which the legislator has a conflict created by a personal or private interest that would directly give rise to an appearance of impropriety as to the legislator's influence, benefit, or detriment in regard to the legislative matter, the legislator shall disclose the interest creating the conflict prior to participating in the official action, as provided in subsections (2) and (5) and the rules of the legislature. In making a decision, the legislator shall consider:

(a) whether the conflict impedes the legislator's independence of judgment;

(b) the effect of the legislator's participation on public confidence in the integrity of the legislature;

(c) whether the legislator's participation is likely to have any significant effect on the disposition of the matter; and

(d) whether a pecuniary interest is involved or whether a potential occupational, personal, or family benefit could arise from the legislator's participation.

(4) A conflict situation does not arise from legislation or legislative duties affecting the membership of a profession, occupation, or class.

(5) A legislator shall disclose an interest creating a conflict, as provided in the rules of the legislature. A legislator who is a member of a profession, occupation, or class affected by legislation is not required to disclose an interest unless the class contained in the legislation is so narrow that the vote will have a direct and distinctive personal impact on the legislator. A legislator may seek a determination from the appropriate committee provided for in 2-2-135.

History: En. 59-1708 by Sec. 8, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1708; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 562, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Legislature — organization and procedure, Art. V, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

2-2-113 through 2-2-120 reserved.

2-2-121. Rules of conduct for public officers and public employees. (1) Proof of commission of any act enumerated in subsection (2) is proof that the actor has breached a public duty.

(2) A public officer or a public employee may not:

(a) subject to subsection (6), use public time, facilities, equipment, state letterhead, supplies, personnel, or funds for the officer's or employee's private business purposes;

(b) engage in a substantial financial transaction for the officer's or employee's private business purposes with a person whom the officer or employee inspects or supervises in the course of official duties;

(c) assist any person for a fee or other compensation in obtaining a contract, claim, license, or other economic benefit from the officer's or employee's agency;

(d) assist any person for a contingent fee in obtaining a contract, claim, license, or other economic benefit from any agency;

(e) perform an official act directly and substantially affecting to its economic benefit a business or other undertaking in which the officer or employee either has a substantial financial interest or is engaged as counsel, consultant, representative, or agent; or

(f) solicit or accept employment, or engage in negotiations or meetings to consider employment, with a person whom the officer or employee regulates in the course of official duties without first giving written notification to the officer's or employee's supervisor and department director.

(3) (a) A candidate, as defined in 13-1-101(8)(a), may not use or permit the use of state funds for any advertisement or public service announcement in a newspaper, on radio, or on television that contains the candidate's name, picture, or voice except in the case of a state or national emergency and then only if the announcement is reasonably necessary to the candidate's official functions.

(b) A state officer may not use or permit the use of public time, facilities, equipment, state letterhead, supplies, personnel, or funds to produce, print, or broadcast any advertisement or public service announcement in a newspaper, on radio, or on television that contains the state officer's name, picture, or voice except in the case of a state or national emergency if the announcement is reasonably necessary to the state officer's official functions or in the case of an announcement directly related to a program or activity under the jurisdiction of the office or position to which the state officer was elected or appointed.

(4) A public officer or public employee may not participate in a proceeding when an organization, other than an organization or association of local government officials, of which the public officer or public employee is an officer or director is:

(a) involved in a proceeding before the employing agency that is within the scope of the public officer's or public employee's job duties; or

(b) attempting to influence a local, state, or federal proceeding in which the public officer or public employee represents the state or local government.

(5) A public officer or public employee may not engage in any activity, including lobbying, as defined in 5-7-102, on behalf of an organization, other than an organization or association of local government officials, of which the public officer or public employee is a member while performing the public officer's or public employee's job duties. The provisions of this subsection do not prohibit a public officer or public employee from performing charitable fundraising activities if approved by the public officer's or public employee's supervisor or authorized by law.

(6) A listing by a public officer or a public employee in the electronic directory provided for in 30-17-101 of any product created outside of work in a public agency is not in violation of subsection (2)(a) of this section. The public officer or public employee may not make arrangements for the listing in the electronic directory during work hours.

(7) A department head or a member of a quasi-judicial or rulemaking board may perform an official act notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2)(e) if participation is necessary to the administration of a statute and if the person complies with the disclosure procedures under 2-2-131.

(8) Subsection (2)(d) does not apply to a member of a board, commission, council, or committee unless the member is also a full-time public employee.

(9) Subsections (2)(b) and (2)(e) do not prevent a member of the governing body of a local government from performing an official act when the member's participation is necessary to obtain a quorum or to otherwise enable the body to act. The member shall disclose the interest creating the appearance of impropriety prior to performing the official act.

History: En. 59-1706 by Sec. 6, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1706; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 59, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 122, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 173, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 156, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 559, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Coordination: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 559, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

The amendments to this section made by sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 2023, and sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 2023, were rendered void by sec. 8, Ch. 559, L. 2023, a coordination section.

Cross-References

Quasi-judicial function defined, 2-15-102.
Unofficial use of state-owned motor vehicle — misdemeanor, 2-17-432.
Bribery, 45-7-101.
Compensation for past official behavior — misdemeanor, 45-7-103.

2-2-122. Use of public resources for political purposes. (1) Except as provided in this section, a judicial officer, public officer, legislator, or public employee may not use or permit the use of public time, facilities, equipment, state letterhead, supplies, personnel, or funds to solicit support for or opposition to any political committee, the nomination or election of any person to public office, or the passage of a ballot issue unless the use is:

(a) authorized by law;

(b) properly incidental to another activity required or authorized by law, such as the function of a judicial officer, public officer, legislator, or public employee in the normal course of duties; or

(c) reasonably considered to be also available to the public.

(2) As used in subsection (1), "properly incidental to another activity required or authorized by law" does not include any activities related to solicitation of support for or opposition to the nomination or election of a person to public office or political committees organized to support or oppose a candidate or candidates for public office. With respect to ballot issues, properly incidental activities are restricted to:

(a) the activities of a judicial officer, public officer, legislator, or public employee related to determining the impact of passage or failure of a ballot issue on state or local government operations;

(b) in the case of a school district, as defined in Title 20, chapter 6, compliance with the requirements of law governing public meetings of the local board of trustees, including the resulting dissemination of information by a board of trustees or a school superintendent or a designated employee in a district with no superintendent in support of or opposition to a bond issue or levy submitted to the electors. Public funds may not be expended for any form of commercial advertising in support of or opposition to a bond issue or levy submitted to the electors;

(c) the activities of personal staff of legislative leadership who are exempt as provided in 2-18-104, related to assisting legislators in expressing opinions on a statewide ballot issue involving an initiative, referendum, or constitutional amendment.

(3) It is a properly incidental activity for personal staff of legislative leadership who are exempt as provided in 2-18-104 to support nonelection political caucus activity involving legislative business in the normal course of duties as directed by legislative leadership.

(4) Subsection (1) is not intended to restrict the right of a judicial officer, public officer, legislator, or public employee to express personal political views.

(5) (a) If the public officer or public employee is a Montana highway patrol chief or highway patrol officer appointed under Title 44, chapter 1, the term "equipment" as used in subsection (1) includes the chief's or officer's official highway patrol uniform.

(b) A Montana highway patrol chief's or highway patrol officer's title may not be referred to in the solicitation of support for or opposition to any political committee, the nomination or election of any person to public office, or the passage of a ballot issue.

(6) A judicial officer, public officer, legislator, or public employee that violates this section may also be prosecuted by the appropriate county attorney for official misconduct as specified in 45-7-401.

(7) Legislators are allowed limited use of public time, facilities, equipment, state letterhead, supplies, and personnel to:

(a) respond to inquiries or comments from the public, media, or government agencies;

(b) express opinions in any media or platform, including online and on social media; and

(c) publicly support or oppose statewide ballot issues or the nomination of a person to a public office.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 559, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 559, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

2023 Enactment — Coordination: The enactment of this section by sec. 1, Ch. 559, L. 2023, was amended by sec. 8, Ch. 559, L. 2023, a coordination section.

2-2-123 and 2-2-124 reserved.

2-2-125. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 122, L. 2001.

History: En. 59-1707 by Sec. 7, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1707; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 562, L. 1995.

2-2-126 through 2-2-130 reserved.

2-2-131. Disclosure. A public officer or public employee shall, prior to acting in a manner that may impinge on public duty, including the award of a permit, contract, or license, disclose the nature of the private interest that creates the conflict. The public officer or public employee shall make the disclosure in writing to the commissioner of political practices, listing the amount of private interest, if any, the purpose and duration of the person's services rendered, if any, and the compensation received for the services or other information that is necessary to describe the interest. If the public officer or public employee then performs the official act involved, the officer or employee shall state for the record the fact and summary nature of the interest disclosed at the time of performing the act.

History: **En. 59-1710 by Sec. 10, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1710; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 2005.**

2-2-132. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 562, L. 1995.

History: **En. 59-1711 by Sec. 11, Ch. 569, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1711.**

2-2-133 and 2-2-134 reserved.

2-2-135. Ethics committees. (1) Each house of the legislature shall establish an ethics committee. Subject to 5-5-234, the committee must consist of two members of the majority party and two members of the minority party. The committees may meet jointly. Each committee shall educate members concerning the provisions of this part concerning legislators and may consider conflicts between public duty and private interest as provided in 2-2-112. The joint committee may consider matters affecting the entire legislature.

(2) Pursuant to Article V, section 10, of the Montana constitution, the legislature is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of this part concerning legislators.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007.**

2-2-136. Enforcement for judicial officers, state officers, legislators, and state employees — referral of complaint involving county attorney. (1) (a) A person alleging a violation of this part by a judicial officer, state officer, legislator, or state employee may file a complaint with the commissioner of political practices. The commissioner does not have jurisdiction for a complaint concerning a judicial officer if a judicial act is involved in the complaint or a legislator if a legislative act is involved in the complaint. The commissioner also has jurisdiction over complaints against a county attorney that are referred by a local government review panel pursuant to 2-2-144 or filed by a person directly with the commissioner pursuant to 2-2-144(6). If a complaint is filed against the commissioner or another individual employed in the office of the commissioner, the complaint must be resolved in the manner provided for in 13-37-111(5).

(b) The commissioner may request additional information from the complainant or the person who is the subject of the complaint to make an initial determination of whether the complaint states a potential violation of this part.

(c) The commissioner may dismiss a complaint that is frivolous, does not state a potential violation of this part, or does not contain sufficient allegations to enable the commissioner to determine whether the complaint states a potential violation of this part.

(d) When a complaint is filed, the commissioner may issue statements or respond to inquiries to confirm that a complaint has been filed, to identify against whom it has been filed, and to describe the procedural aspects and status of the case.

(2) (a) If the commissioner determines that the complaint states a potential violation of this part, the commissioner shall hold an informal contested case hearing on the complaint as provided in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6. However, if the issues presented in a complaint have been addressed and decided in a prior decision and the commissioner determines that no additional factual development is necessary, the commissioner may issue a summary decision without holding an informal contested case hearing on the complaint.

(b) Except as provided in 2-3-203, an informal contested case proceeding must be open to the public. Except as provided in Title 2, chapter 6, part 10, documents submitted to the commissioner for the informal contested case proceeding are presumed to be public information.

(c) The commissioner shall issue a decision based on the record established before the commissioner. The decision issued after a hearing is public information open to inspection.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), if the commissioner determines that a violation of this part has occurred, the commissioner may impose an administrative penalty of not less than $50 or more than $1,000.

(b) If the commissioner determines that a violation of 2-2-121(3)(b) has occurred, the commissioner may impose an administrative penalty of not less than $500 or more than $10,000.

(c) If the violation was committed by a state employee, the commissioner may also recommend that the employing state agency discipline the employee. The employing entity of a state employee may take disciplinary action against an employee for a violation of this part, regardless of whether the commissioner makes a recommendation for discipline.

(d) The commissioner may assess the costs of the proceeding against the person bringing the charges if the commissioner determines that a violation did not occur or against the officer or employee if the commissioner determines that a violation did occur.

(4) A party may seek judicial review of the commissioner's decision, as provided in Title 2, chapter 4, part 7, after a hearing, a dismissal, or a summary decision issued pursuant to this section.

(5) The commissioner may adopt rules to carry out the responsibilities and duties assigned by this part.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 122, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 386, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 156, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 440, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 559, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 4, Ch. 440, L. 2023, in (1)(a) in second sentence inserted "judicial officer if a judicial act is involved in the complaint or a". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 5, Ch. 559, L. 2023, in (1)(a) near middle of first sentence inserted "judicial officer" and in second sentence inserted "judicial officer if a judicial act is involved in the complaint or a"; and in (3)(b) near beginning substituted "2-2-121(3)(b)" for "2-2-121(4)(b)". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Commissioner of Political Practices, Title 13, ch. 37, part 1.

2-2-137. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 122, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 562, L. 1995.

2-2-138. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 122, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 562, L. 1995.

2-2-139. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 122, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 562, L. 1995.

2-2-140. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 2019.

2-2-141 reserved.

2-2-142. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 122, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 562, L. 1995.

2-2-143. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 122, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 562, L. 1995.

2-2-144. Enforcement for local government. (1) Except as provided in subsections (5) and (6), a person alleging a violation of this part by a local government officer or local government employee shall notify the county attorney of the county where the local government is located. The county attorney shall request from the complainant or the person who is the subject of the complaint any information necessary to make a determination concerning the validity of the complaint.

(2) If the county attorney determines that the complaint is justified, the county attorney may bring an action in district court seeking a civil fine of not less than $50 or more than $1,000. If the county attorney determines that the complaint alleges a criminal violation, the county attorney shall bring criminal charges against the officer or employee.

(3) If the county attorney declines to bring an action under this section, the person alleging a violation of this part may file a civil action in district court seeking a civil fine of not less than $50 or more than $1,000. In an action filed under this subsection, the court may assess the costs and attorney fees against the person bringing the charges if the court determines that a violation did not occur or against the officer or employee if the court determines that a violation did occur. The court may impose sanctions if the court determines that the action was frivolous or intended for harassment.

(4) The employing entity of a local government employee may take disciplinary action against an employee for a violation of this part.

(5) (a) A local government may establish a three-member panel to review complaints alleging violations of this part by officers or employees of the local government. The local

government shall establish procedures and rules for the panel. The members of the panel may not be officers or employees of the local government. The panel shall review complaints and may refer to the county attorney complaints that appear to be substantiated. If the complaint is against the county attorney, the panel shall refer the matter to the commissioner of political practices and the complaint must then be processed by the commissioner pursuant to 2-2-136.

(b) In a local government that establishes a panel under this subsection (5), a complaint must be referred to the panel prior to making a complaint to the county attorney.

(6) If a local government review panel has not been established pursuant to subsection (5), a person alleging a violation of this part by a county attorney shall file the complaint with the commissioner of political practices pursuant to 2-2-136.

(7) This section does not apply to allegations of a violation by a judicial officer, justice, district court judge, or judge under the judicial branch of state government.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 122, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 440, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 440, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-2-145. Retaliation unlawful — civil liability — remedies — statute of limitations — definitions. (1) It is unlawful for a state agency, state officer, public officer, or public employee to retaliate against, or to condone or threaten retaliation against, an individual who, in good faith, alleges waste, fraud, or abuse.

(2) A person who violates a provision of this section is liable in a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction. The provisions of 2-9-305 apply if the person is being sued in a civil action for actions taken within the course and scope of the person's employment and the person is a state officer, public officer, or public employee.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "person" has the meaning provided in 2-5-103;

(b) "retaliate" means to take any of the following actions against an individual because the individual, in good faith, alleged waste, fraud, or abuse:

(i) terminate employment;

(ii) demote;

(iii) deny overtime, benefits, or promotion;

(iv) discipline;

(v) decline to hire or rehire;

(vi) threaten or intimidate;

(vii) reassign to a position that hurts future career prospects;

(viii) reduce pay, work hours, or benefits; or

(ix) take another adverse personnel action; and

(c) "state agency" has the meaning provided in 1-2-116.

(4) Remedies available to an aggrieved individual for a violation may include:

(a) reinstatement to a lost position;

(b) compensation for lost benefits, including service credit;

(c) compensation for lost wages;

(d) payment of reasonable attorney fees;

(e) payment of court costs;

(f) injunctive relief; and

(g) compensatory damages.

(5) A lawsuit alleging a violation of this section must be brought within 2 years of the alleged violation.

(6) If a state agency maintains written internal procedures under which an individual may appeal an action described in subsection (3)(b) within the agency's organizational structure, the individual shall first exhaust those procedures before filing an action under this section. The individual's failure to initiate or exhaust available internal procedures is a defense to an action brought under this section.

(7) For purposes of this subsection, if the state agency's internal procedures are not completed within 90 days from the date the individual may file an action under this section, the agency's internal procedures are considered exhausted. The limitation period in subsection (5) is tolled until the procedures are exhausted. The provisions of the agency's internal procedures may not in any case extend the limitation period in subsection (5) more than 240 days.

(8) If the state agency maintains written internal procedures described in subsection (6), the agency shall, within 7 days of receiving written notice from the complaining individual of the action described in subsection (3)(b), notify the individual of the existence of the written procedures and supply the individual with a copy. If the agency fails to comply with this subsection, the individual is relieved from compliance with subsection (6).

(9) The commissioner of political practices is not required or authorized to enforce this section.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 2017.**

Part 2
Proscribed Acts Related to Contracts and Claims

2-2-201. Public officers, employees, and former employees not to have interest in contracts. (1) Members of the legislature; state, county, city, town, or township officers; or any deputies or employees of an enumerated governmental entity may not be interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity or by any body, agency, or board of which they are members or employees if they are directly involved with the contract. A former employee may not, within 6 months following the termination of employment, contract or be employed by an employer who contracts with the state or any of its subdivisions involving matters with which the former employee was directly involved during employment.

(2) In this section, the term:

(a) "be interested in" does not include holding a minority interest in a corporation;

(b) "contract" does not include:

(i) contracts awarded based on competitive procurement procedures conducted after the date of employment termination;

(ii) merchandise sold to the highest bidder at public auctions;

(iii) investments or deposits in financial institutions that are in the business of loaning or receiving money;

(iv) a contract with an interested party if, because of geographic restrictions, a local government could not otherwise reasonably afford itself of the subject of the contract. It is presumed that a local government could not otherwise reasonably afford itself of the subject of a contract if the additional cost to the local government is greater than 10% of a contract with an interested party or if the contract is for services that must be performed within a limited time period and no other contractor can provide those services within that time period.

(c) "directly involved" means the person directly monitors a contract, extends or amends a contract, audits a contractor, is responsible for conducting the procurement or for evaluating proposals or vendor responsibility, or renders legal advice concerning the contract;

(d) "former employee" does not include a person whose employment with the state was involuntarily terminated because of a reduction in force or other involuntary termination not involving violation of the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 1020, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 368, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 444, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 920; re-en. Sec. 444, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-501; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 458, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Ethical principles relating to interest in contract, 2-2-105, 2-2-121.

Transfers and collusion prohibited, 18-4-141.

2-2-202. Public officers not to have interest in sales or purchases. State, county, town, township, and city officers must not be purchasers at any sale or vendors at any purchase made by them in their official capacity.

History: **En. Sec. 1021, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 369, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 445, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 921; re-en. Sec. 445, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-502.**

2-2-203. Voidable contracts. Every contract made in violation of any of the provisions of 2-2-201 or 2-2-202 may be avoided at the instance of any party except the officer interested therein.

History: **En. Sec. 1022, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 370, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 446, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 922; re-en. Sec. 446, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-503.**

2-2-204. Dealings in warrants and other claims prohibited. The state officers, the several county, city, town, and township officers of this state, their deputies and clerks, are prohibited from purchasing or selling or in any manner receiving to their own use or benefit or to the use or benefit of any person or persons whatever any state, county, or city warrants, scrip, orders, demands, claims, or other evidences of indebtedness against the state or any county, city, town, or township thereof except evidences of indebtedness issued to or held by them for services rendered as such officer, deputy, clerk, and evidences of the funded indebtedness of such state, county, city, township, town, or corporation.

History: En. Sec. 1023, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 371, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 447, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 923; re-en. Sec. 447, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-504.

2-2-205. Affidavit to be required by auditing officers. Each officer whose duty it is to audit and allow the accounts of other state, county, city, township, or town officers shall, before allowing the accounts, require each of the officers to make and file with the auditing officer an affidavit that the affiant has not violated any of the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 1024, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 372, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 448, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 924; re-en. Sec. 448, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-505; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-2-206. Officers not to pay illegal warrant. Officers charged with the disbursement of public moneys must not pay any warrant or other evidence of indebtedness against the state, county, city, town, or township when the same has been purchased, sold, received, or transferred contrary to any of the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 1025, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 373, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 449, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 925; re-en. Sec. 449, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-506.

2-2-207. Settlements to be withheld on affidavit. (1) Each officer charged with the disbursement of public money who is informed by affidavit establishing probable cause that an officer whose account is about to be settled, audited, or paid has violated any of the provisions of this part shall suspend the settlement or payment and cause the officer to be prosecuted for the violation by the county attorney.

(2) If there is a judgment for the defendant upon prosecution, the proper officer may proceed to settle, audit, or pay the account as if an affidavit had not been filed.

History: En. Sec. 1026, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 374, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 450, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 926; re-en. Sec. 450, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-507; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Part 3
Nepotism

Part Cross-References

Discrimination in employment, 49-2-303.
Employment of state and local government personnel, 49-3-201.

2-2-301. Nepotism defined. Nepotism is the bestowal of political patronage by reason of relationship rather than of merit.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 456.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-518.

2-2-302. Appointment of relative to office of trust or emolument unlawful — exceptions — publication of notice. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), it is unlawful for a person or member of any board, bureau, or commission or employee at the head of a department of this state or any political subdivision of this state to appoint to any position of trust or emolument any person related or connected by consanguinity within the fourth degree or by affinity within the second degree.

(2) The provisions of 2-2-303 and this section do not apply to:

(a) a sheriff in the appointment of a person as a cook or an attendant;

(b) school district trustees if all the trustees, with the exception of any trustee who is related to the person being appointed and who must abstain from voting for the appointment, approve the appointment of a person related to a trustee;

(c) a school district in the employment of a person as a substitute teacher who is not employed as a substitute teacher for more than 30 consecutive school days as defined by the trustees in 20-1-302;

(d) the renewal of an employment contract of a person who was initially hired before the member of the board, bureau, or commission or the department head to whom the person is related assumed the duties of the office;

(e) the employment of election judges;

(f) the employment of pages or temporary session staff by the legislature;

(g) county commissioners of a county with a population of less than 10,000 if all the commissioners, with the exception of any commissioner who is related to the person being appointed and who must abstain from voting for the appointment, approve the appointment of a person related to a commissioner; or

(h) a board, bureau, or commission of a county with a population of less than 10,000 people, if all the board, bureau, or commission members, with the exception of any member who is related to the person being appointed and who must abstain from voting for the appointment, approve the appointment of a person related to a board member.

(3) Prior to the appointment of a person referred to in subsection (2)(b), (2)(g), or (2)(h), written notice of the time and place for the intended action must be published at least 15 days prior to the intended action in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the school district is located or the county office or position is located.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 12, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 456.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 535, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-519(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Affinity, 1-1-219.

Consanguinity, 72-11-102 through 72-11-104.

2-2-303. Agreements to appoint relative to office unlawful. It shall further be unlawful for any person or any member of any board, bureau, or commission or employee of any department of this state or any political subdivision thereof to enter into any agreement or any promise with other persons or any members of any boards, bureaus, or commissions or employees of any department of this state or any of its political subdivisions thereof to appoint to any position of trust or emolument any person or persons related to them or connected with them by consanguinity within the fourth degree or by affinity within the second degree.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 12, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 456.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 535, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-519(part).

2-2-304. Penalty for violation of nepotism law. A public officer or employee or a member of any board, bureau, or commission of this state or any political subdivision who, by virtue of the person's office, has the right to make or appoint any person to render services to this state or any subdivision of this state and who makes or appoints a person to the services or enters into any agreement or promise with any other person or employee or any member of any board, bureau, or commission of any other department of this state or any of its subdivisions to appoint to any position any person or persons related to the person making the appointment or connected with the person making the appointment by consanguinity within the fourth degree or by affinity within the second degree is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not less than $50 or more than $1,000, by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or both.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 456.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-520; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

CHAPTER 3
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Part 1 — Notice and Opportunity to Be Heard

2-3-101. Legislative intent.
2-3-102. Definitions.
2-3-103. Public participation — governor to ensure guidelines adopted — procedures for publishing notice.

2-3-104. Requirements for compliance with notice provisions.
2-3-105. Supplemental notice by radio or television.
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2-3-111. Opportunity to submit views — public hearings.
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Part 2 — Open Meetings

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2-3-202. Meeting defined.
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2-3-215 through 2-3-220 reserved.
2-3-221. Costs to prevailing party in certain actions to enforce constitutional right to know.

Part 3 — Use of Electronic Mail Systems

2-3-301. Agency to accept public comment electronically — dissemination of electronic mail address and documents required — fees prohibited.

Chapter Cross-References

Government Accountability Act, Title 2, ch. 11, part 1.

Part 1
Notice and Opportunity to Be Heard

2-3-101. Legislative intent. The legislature finds and declares pursuant to the mandate of Article II, section 8, of the 1972 Montana constitution that legislative guidelines should be established to secure to the people of Montana their constitutional right to be afforded reasonable opportunity to participate in the operation of governmental agencies prior to the final decision of the agency.

History: **En. 82-4226 by Sec. 1, Ch. 491, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4226.**

2-3-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" means any board, bureau, commission, department, authority, or officer of the state or local government authorized by law to make rules, determine contested cases, or enter into contracts except:

(a) the legislature and any branch, committee, or officer thereof;

(b) the judicial branches and any committee or officer thereof;

(c) the governor, except that an agency is not exempt because the governor has been designated as a member thereof; or

(d) the state military establishment and agencies concerned with civil defense and recovery from hostile attack.

(2) "Agency action" means the whole or a part of the adoption of an agency rule, the issuance of a license or order, the award of a contract, or the equivalent or denial thereof.

(3) "Rule" means any agency regulation, standard, or statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy or describes the organization, procedures, or practice requirements of any agency. The term includes the amendment or repeal of a prior rule but does not include:

(a) statements concerning only the internal management of an agency and not affecting private rights or procedures available to the public; or

(b) declaratory rulings as to the applicability of any statutory provision or of any rule.

History: **En. 82-4227 by Sec. 2, Ch. 491, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4227(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 1979.**

2-3-103. Public participation — governor to ensure guidelines adopted — procedures for publishing notice. (1) (a) Each agency shall develop procedures for permitting and encouraging the public to participate in agency decisions that are of significant interest to the public. The procedures must ensure adequate notice and assist public participation before a final agency action is taken that is of significant interest to the public.

(b) The agency shall publish an agenda for a meeting, as defined in 2-3-202, as follows:

(i) if a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the agency is located publishes electronic notices and links to meeting agendas free of charge to the agency on the newspaper's website, the agency shall provide the notice and agenda to the newspaper to post on the newspaper's website;

(ii) if the agency does not have an option to post notices and links to meeting agendas free of charge, the agency shall provide adequate notice of a meeting by doing at least one of the following:

(A) posting a link to the meeting agenda on the agency's primary website; or

(B) posting the agenda on the social media site of the agency.

(c) The agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting. However, the agency may not take action on any matter discussed unless specific notice of that matter is included on an agenda and public comment has been allowed on that matter.

(d) Public comment received at a meeting must be incorporated into the official minutes of the meeting, as provided in 2-3-212.

(e) For purposes of this section, "public matter" does not include contested case and other adjudicative proceedings.

(2) The governor shall ensure that each board, bureau, commission, department, authority, agency, or officer of the executive branch of the state adopts coordinated rules for its programs. The guidelines must provide policies and procedures to facilitate public participation in those programs, consistent with subsection (1). These guidelines must be adopted as rules and published in a manner so that the rules may be provided to a member of the public upon request.

History: En. 82-4228 by Sec. 3, Ch. 491, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 452, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4228(1), (5); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Right of public participation in government, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Adoption of rules, 2-4-302.
Publication of rules — availability, 2-4-312.

2-3-104. Requirements for compliance with notice provisions. An agency shall be considered to have complied with the notice provisions of 2-3-103 if:

(1) an environmental impact statement is prepared and distributed as required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act, Title 75, chapter 1;

(2) a proceeding is held as required by the Montana Administrative Procedure Act;

(3) a public hearing, after appropriate notice is given, is held pursuant to any other provision of state law or a local ordinance or resolution; or

(4) a newspaper of general circulation within the area to be affected by a decision of significant interest to the public has carried a news story or advertisement concerning the decision sufficiently prior to a final decision to permit public comment on the matter.

History: En. 82-4228 by Sec. 3, Ch. 491, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 452, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4228(2).

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — proceedings, 2-4-302, 2-4-306, 2-4-601.
Publication and content of local government notices, 7-1-2121.

2-3-105. Supplemental notice by radio or television. (1) An official of the state or any of its political subdivisions who is required by law to publish a notice required by law may supplement the publication by a radio or television broadcast of a summary of the notice or by both when in the official's judgment the public interest will be served.

(2) The summary of the notice must be read without a reference to any person by name who is then a candidate for political office.

(3) The announcements may be made only by duly employed personnel of the station from which the broadcast emanates.

(4) Announcements by political subdivisions may be made only by stations situated within the county of origin of the legal notice unless a broadcast station does not exist in that county, in which case announcements may be made by a station or stations situated in any county other than the county of origin of the legal notice.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 19-201; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-3-106. Period for which copy retained. Each radio or television station broadcasting any summary of a legal notice shall for a period of 6 months subsequent to such broadcast retain at its office a copy or transcription of the text of the summary as actually broadcast, which shall be available for public inspection.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 149, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 19-202.

2-3-107. Proof of publication by broadcast. Proof of publication of a summary of any notice by radio or television broadcast shall be by affidavit of the manager, an assistant manager, or a program director of the radio or television station broadcasting the same.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 149, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 19-203.

Cross-References

Affidavits — generally, Title 26, ch. 1, part 10.
Affidavit defined, 26-1-1001.

2-3-108 through 2-3-110 reserved.

2-3-111. Opportunity to submit views — public hearings. (1) Procedures for assisting public participation must include a method of affording interested persons reasonable opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in written form, prior to making a final decision that is of significant interest to the public.

(2) When a state agency other than the board of regents proposes to take an action that directly impacts a specific community or area and a public hearing is held, the hearing must be held in an accessible facility in the impacted community or area or in the nearest community or area with an accessible facility.

History: En. 82-4228 by Sec. 3, Ch. 491, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 452, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4228(3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 487, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Right of public participation in government, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Submission of comments by electronic mail over Internet, 2-3-301.

2-3-112. Exceptions. The provisions of 2-3-103 and 2-3-111 do not apply to:

(1) an agency decision that must be made to deal with an emergency situation affecting the public health, welfare, or safety;

(2) an agency decision that must be made to maintain or protect the interests of the agency, including but not limited to the filing of a lawsuit in a court of law or becoming a party to an administrative proceeding; or

(3) a decision involving no more than a ministerial act.

History: En. 82-4228 by Sec. 3, Ch. 491, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 452, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4228(4).

Cross-References

Emergency rules, 2-4-303.
Disaster and emergency services, Title 10, ch. 3.

2-3-113. Declaratory rulings to be published. The declaratory rulings of any board, bureau, commission, department, authority, agency, or officer of the state which is not subject to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act shall be published and be subject to judicial review as provided under 2-4-623(6) and 2-4-501, respectively.

History: En. 82-4227 by Sec. 2, Ch. 491, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4227(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 1979.

2-3-114. Enforcement — attorney fees. (1) The district courts of the state have jurisdiction to set aside an agency decision under this part upon petition of any person whose rights have been prejudiced. A petition pursuant to this section must be filed within 30 days of the date on which the person learns, or reasonably should have learned, of the agency's decision.

(2) A person alleging a deprivation of rights who prevails in an action brought in district court to enforce the person's rights under Article II, section 8, of the Montana constitution may be awarded costs and reasonable attorney fees.

History: **En. 82-4229 by Sec. 4, Ch. 491, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4229; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 211, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 266, L. 2015.**

Part 2
Open Meetings

2-3-201. Legislative intent — liberal construction. The legislature finds and declares that public boards, commissions, councils, and other public agencies in this state exist to aid in the conduct of the peoples' business. It is the intent of this part that actions and deliberations of all public agencies shall be conducted openly. The people of the state do not wish to abdicate their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. Toward these ends, the provisions of the part shall be liberally construed.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3401.**

Cross-References

Right of public to examine documents or to observe deliberations of public bodies, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

2-3-202. Meeting defined. As used in this part, "meeting" means the convening of a quorum of the constituent membership of a public agency or association described in 2-3-203, whether corporal or by means of electronic equipment, to hear, discuss, or act upon a matter over which the agency has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

History: **En. 82-3404 by Sec. 2, Ch. 567, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3404; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 183, L. 1987.**

2-3-203. Meetings of public agencies and certain associations of public agencies to be open to public — exceptions. (1) All meetings of public or governmental bodies, boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies of the state, or any political subdivision of the state or organizations or agencies supported in whole or in part by public funds or expending public funds, including the supreme court, must be open to the public.

(2) All meetings of associations that are composed of public or governmental bodies referred to in subsection (1) and that regulate the rights, duties, or privileges of any individual must be open to the public.

(3) The presiding officer of any meeting may close the meeting during the time the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy and then if and only if the presiding officer determines that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. The right of individual privacy may be waived by the individual about whom the discussion pertains and, in that event, the meeting must be open.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), a meeting may be closed to discuss a strategy to be followed with respect to litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public agency.

(b) A meeting may not be closed to discuss strategy to be followed in litigation in which the only parties are public bodies or associations described in subsections (1) and (2).

(5) The supreme court may close a meeting that involves judicial deliberations in an adversarial proceeding.

(6) Any committee or subcommittee appointed by a public body or an association described in subsection (2) for the purpose of conducting business that is within the jurisdiction of that agency is subject to the requirements of this section.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 474, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 567, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3402; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 380, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Right of public to observe deliberations of all public bodies, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of individual privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Legislature — organization and procedure, Art. V, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Notice of agency action required, 2-3-103.
Deliberations of Medical Legal Panel to be secret, 27-6-603.
Criminal penalty for closed meeting — official misconduct, 45-7-401.

2-3-204 through 2-3-210 reserved.

2-3-211. Recording. A person may not be excluded from any open meeting under this part and may not be prohibited from photographing, televising, transmitting images or audio by electronic or digital means, or recording open meetings. The presiding officer may ensure that these activities do not interfere with the conduct of the meeting.

History: En. 82-3405 by Sec. 4, Ch. 567, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3405; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 2017.

2-3-212. Minutes of meetings — public inspection. (1) Appropriate minutes of all meetings required by 2-3-203 to be open must be kept and must be available for inspection by the public. If an audio recording of a meeting is made and designated as official, the recording constitutes the official record of the meeting. If an official recording is made, a written record of the meeting must also be made and must include the information specified in subsection (2).

(2) Minutes must include without limitation:

(a) the date, time, and place of the meeting;

(b) a list of the individual members of the public body, agency, or organization who were in attendance;

(c) the substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided; and

(d) at the request of any member, a record of votes by individual members for any votes taken.

(3) If the minutes are recorded and designated as the official record, a log or time stamp for each main agenda item is required for the purpose of providing assistance to the public in accessing that portion of the meeting.

(4) Any time a presiding officer closes a public meeting pursuant to 2-3-203, the presiding officer shall ensure that minutes taken in compliance with subsection (2) are kept of the closed portion of the meeting. The minutes from the closed portion of the meeting may not be made available for inspection except pursuant to a court order.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 159, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 567, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3403; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Persons entitled to examine and copy public records, 2-6-1003.

2-3-213. Voidability. Any decision made in violation of 2-3-203 may be declared void by a district court having jurisdiction. A suit to void a decision must be commenced within 30 days of the date on which the plaintiff or petitioner learns, or reasonably should have learned, of the agency's decision.

History: En. 82-3406 by Sec. 5, Ch. 567, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3406; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 211, L. 2007.

2-3-214. *(Temporary)* **Recording of meetings for certain boards.** (1) Except as provided in 2-3-203, the following boards shall record their public meetings in a video or audio format:

(a) the board of investments provided for in 2-15-1808;

(b) the public employees' retirement board provided for in 2-15-1009;

(c) the teachers' retirement board provided for in 2-15-1010;

(d) the board of public education provided for in Article X, section 9, of the Montana constitution; and

(e) the board of regents of higher education provided for in Article X, section 9, of the Montana constitution.

(2) All good faith efforts to record meetings in a video format must be made, but if a board is unable to record a meeting in a video format, it must record the meeting in an audio format.

(3) (a) The boards listed in subsection (1) must make the video or audio recordings of meetings under subsection (1) publicly available within 1 business day after the meeting through broadcast on the state government broadcasting service as provided in 5-11-1111 or through publication of streaming video or audio content on the respective board's website.

(b) The department of administration may develop a memorandum of understanding with the legislative services division for broadcasting executive branch content on the state government broadcasting service or live-streaming audio or video executive branch content over the internet.

2-3-214. *(Effective July 1, 2024)* **Recording of meetings for certain boards.** (1) Except as provided in 2-3-203 and subsection (6) of this section, the following boards shall record their public meetings in an audio and video format:

(a) the board of investments provided for in 2-15-1808;

(b) the public employees' retirement board provided for in 2-15-1009;

(c) the teachers' retirement board provided for in 2-15-1010;

(d) the board of public education provided for in Article X, section 9, of the Montana constitution;

(e) the board of regents of higher education provided for in Article X, section 9, of the Montana constitution;

(f) except as provided in subsection (7)(a), the governing board of a county provided for in Title 7, chapter 1, part 21;

(g) except as provided in subsection (7)(b), the governing board of a first-class and second-class city provided for in Title 7, chapter 1, part 41;

(h) a first-class or second-class school district board of trustees provided for in Article X, section 8, of the Montana constitution, 20-6-201, and 20-6-301; and

(i) a local board of health provided for in Title 50, chapter 2, part 1.

(2) (a) The boards listed in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(e) shall make the audio and video recordings of meetings under subsection (1) publicly available within 1 business day after the meeting through broadcast on the state government broadcasting service as provided in 5-11-1111 or through publication of streaming audio and video content on the respective board's website.

(b) The boards listed in subsections (1)(f) through (1)(i) shall make the audio and video recordings publicly available within 5 business days after the meeting with a link to the recording on the respective board's website. If the board does not maintain a website, it shall maintain a social media page and provide a link to the recording on the social media page.

(c) The department of administration may develop a memorandum of understanding with the legislative services division for broadcasting executive branch content on the state government broadcasting service or live-streaming audio or video executive branch content over the internet.

(3) For the boards listed in subsections (1)(f) through (1)(i) that maintain minutes as required by 2-3-212, the audio and video recordings created pursuant to this section are not required to be the official record of the meeting. If a recording is not designated as the official record, the recording may be destroyed after being retained online for 1 year and is not subject to the requirements of Title 2, chapter 6, for public information requests.

(4) A board is not required to disrupt or reschedule a meeting if there is a technological failure of the meeting recording. If the recording is not able to be made available online, the board shall prominently post a notice in the same manner as a notice of a public meeting and shall post a notice at all locations where the meeting recording links are available. The notice must explain the reason the meeting was not recorded and describe the steps taken to remedy the failure prior to the next meeting.

(5) The requirements of this section apply only when a board is acting on a matter over which the board has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power at a public meeting as defined in 2-3-202 that has been publicly noticed as required by 2-3-103.

(6) The requirements of this section do not apply to a board listed in subsection (1)(f) when a quorum is incidentally established as described in 7-5-2122(4) and (5) solely on the basis of sharing a common office space.

(7) The following boards must meet the requirements of this section, except that meetings may be recorded, retained, and made available in audio format only:

(a) the governing board of a county with a population of less than 4,500; and

(b) the governing board of a third-class city.

(8) Expenditures by a school district on staff, consultants, equipment, software licenses, storage, or security made to fulfill the requirements of this section qualify as a school facility project under 20-9-525.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 741, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 741, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2024.

2-3-215 through 2-3-220 reserved.

2-3-221. Costs to prevailing party in certain actions to enforce constitutional right to know. A person alleging a deprivation of rights who prevails in an action brought in district court to enforce the person's rights under Article II, section 9, of the Montana constitution may be awarded costs and reasonable attorney fees.

History: En. 93-8632 by Sec. 1, Ch. 493, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-8632; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

Part 3
Use of Electronic Mail Systems

2-3-301. Agency to accept public comment electronically — dissemination of electronic mail address and documents required — fees prohibited. (1) An agency that accepts public comment pursuant to a statute, administrative rule, or policy, including an agency adopting rules pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act or an agency to which 2-3-111 applies, shall provide for the receipt of public comment by the agency by use of an electronic mail system.

(2) As part of the agency action required by subsection (1), an agency shall disseminate by appropriate media its electronic mail address to which public comment may be made, including dissemination in:

(a) rulemaking notices published pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act;
(b) the telephone directory of state agencies published by the department of administration;
(c) any notice of agency existence, purpose, and operations published on the internet; or
(d) any combination of the methods of dissemination provided in subsections (2)(a) through (2)(c).

(3) An agency shall, at the request of another agency or person and subject to 2-6-1003, disseminate the electronic documents to that agency or person by electronic mail in place of surface mail. Notification of the availability of an electronic notice of proposed rulemaking may be sent to an interested person as provided in 2-4-302(2)(a)(ii). An agency may not charge a fee for providing documents by electronic mail in accordance with this subsection.

(4) An agency that receives electronic mail pursuant to subsection (1) shall retain the electronic mail as either an electronic or a paper copy to the same extent that other comments are retained.

(5) As used in this section, "agency" means a department, division, bureau, office, board, commission, authority, or other agency of the executive branch of state government.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 484, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

CHAPTER 4
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

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Part 1
General Provisions

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Montana Negotiated Rulemaking Act, Title 2, ch. 5, part 1.

2-4-101. Short title — purpose — exception. (1) This chapter is known and may be cited as the "Montana Administrative Procedure Act".

(2) The purposes of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act are to:

(a) generally give notice to the public of governmental action and to provide for public participation in that action;

(b) establish general uniformity and due process safeguards in agency rulemaking, legislative review of rules, and contested case proceedings;

(c) establish standards for judicial review of agency rules and final agency decisions; and

(d) provide the executive and judicial branches of government with statutory directives.

(3) Effective July 1, 2016, this chapter does not apply to the operations of the state compensation insurance fund provided for in Title 39, chapter 71, part 23. Administrative rules adopted by the state fund board of directors prior to July 1, 2016, apply to new and renewal policies issued by the state fund that are effective prior to July 1, 2016. The state fund is subject to rules adopted by any agency that by law apply to the state fund.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4201; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 320, L. 2015.

2-4-102. Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administrative rule review committee" or "committee" means the appropriate committee assigned subject matter jurisdiction in Title 5, chapter 5, part 2.

(2) (a) "Agency" means an agency, as defined in 2-3-102, of state government, except that the provisions of this chapter do not apply to the following:

(i) the state board of pardons and parole, which is exempt from the contested case and judicial review of contested cases provisions contained in this chapter. However, the board is subject to the remainder of the provisions of this chapter.

(ii) the supervision and administration of a penal institution with regard to the institutional supervision, custody, control, care, or treatment of youth or prisoners;

(iii) the board of regents and the Montana university system;

(iv) the financing, construction, and maintenance of public works;

(v) the public service commission when conducting arbitration proceedings pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 252 and 69-3-837.

(b) The term does not include a school district, a unit of local government, or any other political subdivision of the state.

(3) "ARM" means the Administrative Rules of Montana.

(4) "Contested case" means a proceeding before an agency in which a determination of legal rights, duties, or privileges of a party is required by law to be made after an opportunity for hearing. The term includes but is not restricted to ratemaking, price fixing, and licensing.

(5) (a) "Interested person" means a person who has expressed to the agency an interest concerning agency actions under this chapter and has requested to be placed on the agency's list of interested persons as to matters of which the person desires to be given notice.

(b) The term does not extend to contested cases.

(6) "License" includes the whole or part of an agency permit, certificate, approval, registration, charter, or other form of permission required by law but does not include a license required solely for revenue purposes.

(7) "Licensing" includes an agency process respecting the grant, denial, renewal, revocation, suspension, annulment, withdrawal, limitation, transfer, or amendment of a license.

(8) "Party" means a person named or admitted as a party or properly seeking and entitled as of right to be admitted as a party, but this chapter may not be construed to prevent an agency from admitting any person as a party for limited purposes.

(9) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, governmental subdivision, agency, or public organization of any character.

(10) "Register" means the Montana Administrative Register.

(11) (a) "Rule" means each agency regulation, standard, or statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy or describes the organization, procedures, or practice requirements of an agency. The term includes the amendment or repeal of a prior rule.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) statements concerning only the internal management of an agency or state government and not affecting private rights or procedures available to the public, including rules implementing the state personnel classification plan, the state wage and salary plan, or the statewide accounting, budgeting, and human resource system;

(ii) formal opinions of the attorney general and declaratory rulings issued pursuant to 2-4-501;

(iii) rules relating to the use of public works, facilities, streets, and highways when the substance of the rules is indicated to the public by means of signs or signals;

(iv) seasonal rules adopted annually or biennially relating to hunting, fishing, and trapping when there is a statutory requirement for the publication of the rules and rules adopted annually or biennially relating to the seasonal recreational use of lands and waters owned or controlled by the state when the substance of the rules is indicated to the public by means of signs or signals;

(v) uniform rules adopted pursuant to interstate compact, except that the rules must be filed in accordance with 2-4-306 and must be published in the ARM;

(vi) game parameters approved by the state lottery and sports wagering commission relating to a specific lottery game. This subsection (11)(b)(vi) does not exempt generally applicable policies governing the state lottery that are otherwise subject to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(vii) policies relating to sports wagering sales agents' commissions prescribed by the state lottery and sports wagering commission; or

(viii) annual plan documents governed by and published as provided in Title 2, chapter 12, part 1.

(12) (a) "Significant interest to the public" means agency actions under this chapter regarding matters that the agency knows to be of widespread citizen interest. These matters include issues involving a substantial fiscal impact to or controversy involving a particular class or group of individuals.

(b) The term does not extend to contested cases.

(13) "Small business" means a business entity, including its affiliates, that is independently owned and operated and that employs fewer than 50 full-time employees.

(14) "Substantive rules" are either:

(a) legislative rules, which if adopted in accordance with this chapter and under expressly delegated authority to promulgate rules to implement a statute have the force of law and when not so adopted are invalid; or

(b) adjective or interpretive rules, which may be adopted in accordance with this chapter and under express or implied authority to codify an interpretation of a statute. The interpretation lacks the force of law.

(15) "Supplemental notice" means a notice that amends the proposed rules or changes the timeline for public participation.

History: (1), (3), (9)En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; (2), (4) thru (8), (10), (11)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4202, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4202; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 671, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 489, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 318, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 15, L. 2023, in definition of rule in (b)(vi) near middle of first sentence substituted "state lottery and sports wagering commission" for "state lottery commission" and inserted (b)(vii) regarding policies relating to sports wagering agents and prescribed commissions; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective February 23, 2023.

Section 7, Ch. 760, L. 2023, in definition of rule inserted (b)(viii) regarding annual plan documents; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 5, Ch. 15, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to policies prescribed by the state lottery and sports wagering commission concerning sports wagering sales agents' commissions on or after January 15, 2022."

Cross-References

Fish, wildlife, and park rules, 87-1-202, 87-1-303.

2-4-103. Rules and statements to be made available to public. (1) Each agency shall:

(a) make available for public inspection all rules and all other written statements of policy or interpretations formulated, adopted, or used by the agency in the discharge of its functions;

(b) upon request of any person, provide a copy of any rule.

(2) Unless otherwise provided by statute, an agency may require the payment of the cost of providing such copies.

(3) No agency rule is valid or effective against any person or party whose rights have been substantially prejudiced by an agency's failure to comply with the public inspection requirement herein.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203(1)(c), (1)(d), (2); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Right of public to examine documents of public bodies, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; 2-3-103.

Advance notice of proposed rules — mailing to requesting parties, 2-4-302.

2-4-104. Subpoenas and enforcement — compelling testimony. (1) An agency conducting any proceeding subject to this chapter may require the furnishing of information, the attendance of witnesses, and the production of books, records, papers, documents, and other objects that may be necessary and proper for the purposes of the proceeding. In furtherance of this power, an agency upon its own motion may and, upon request of any party appearing in a contested case, shall issue subpoenas for witnesses or subpoenas duces tecum. The method for service of subpoenas, witness fees, and mileage must be the same as required in civil actions in the district courts of the state. Except as otherwise provided by statute, witness fees and mileage must be paid by the party at whose request the subpoena was issued.

(2) In case of disobedience of any subpoena issued and served under this section or of the refusal of any witness to testify as to any material matter with regard to which the witness may be interrogated in a proceeding before the agency, the agency may apply to any district court in the state for an order to compel compliance with the subpoena or the giving of testimony. If the agency fails or refuses to seek enforcement of a subpoena issued at the request of a party or to compel the giving of testimony considered material by a party, the party may make an application to the district court. The court shall hear the matter as expeditiously as possible. If the disobedience or refusal is found to be unjustified, the court shall enter an order requiring compliance. Disobedience of the order must be punishable by contempt of court in the same manner and by the same procedures as is provided for similar conduct committed in the course of civil actions in district courts. If another method of subpoena enforcement or compelling testimony is provided by statute, it may be used as an alternative to the method provided for in this section.

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4220(1), (2); amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Mileage, 2-18-503.

Contempt of court, Title 3, ch. 1, part 5.

Subpoenas, Title 26, ch. 2, part 1.

Witness fees, Title 26, ch. 2, part 5.

2-4-105. Representation by counsel. Any person compelled to appear in person or who voluntarily appears before any agency or representative thereof shall be accorded the right to be accompanied, represented, and advised by counsel. In a proceeding before an agency, every party shall be accorded the right to appear in person or by or with counsel but this chapter shall not be construed as requiring an agency to furnish counsel to any such person.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4221.**

2-4-106. Service. Except where a statute expressly provides to the contrary, service in all agency proceedings subject to the provisions of this chapter and in proceedings for judicial review thereof shall be as prescribed for civil actions in the district courts.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4222.**

Cross-References

Service for initiating judicial review of contested cases, 2-4-702.

2-4-107. Construction and effect. Nothing in this chapter shall be considered to limit or repeal requirements imposed by statute or otherwise recognized law. No subsequent legislation shall be considered to supersede or modify any provision of this chapter, whether by implication or otherwise, except to the extent that such legislation shall do so expressly.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4223.

2-4-108 and 2-4-109 reserved.

2-4-110. Departmental review of rule notices. (1) The head of each department of the executive branch shall appoint an existing attorney, paralegal, or other qualified person from that department to review each departmental rule proposal notice, adoption notice, or other notice relating to administrative rulemaking. Notice of the name of the person appointed under this subsection and of any successor must be given to the secretary of state and the appropriate administrative rule review committee within 10 days of the appointment.

(2) The person appointed under subsection (1) shall review each notice by any division, bureau, or other unit of the department, including units attached to the department for administrative purposes only under 2-15-121 unless otherwise excepted, for compliance with this chapter before the notice is filed with the secretary of state. The reviewer shall pay particular attention to 2-4-302 and 2-4-305. The review must include but is not limited to consideration of:

(a) the adequacy of the statement of reasonable necessity for the intended action and whether the intended action is reasonably necessary to effectuate the purpose of the code section or sections implemented;

(b) whether the proper statutory authority for the rule is cited;

(c) whether the citation of the code section or sections implemented is correct;

(d) whether the intended action is contrary to the code section or sections implemented or to other law; and

(e) for a rule that initially implements legislation, whether the intended action is contrary to any comments submitted to the department by the primary sponsor of the legislation for the purposes of 2-4-302.

(3) The person appointed under subsection (1) shall sign each notice for which this section requires a review. The act of signing is an affirmation that the review required by this section has been performed to the best of the reviewer's ability. The secretary of state may not accept for filing a notice that does not have the signature required by this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 2011.

2-4-111. Small business impact analysis — assistance. (1) Prior to the adoption of a proposed rule, the agency that has proposed the rule shall determine if the rule will significantly and directly impact small businesses. If the agency determines that the proposed rule will impact small businesses, the determination must be published in the register when the proposed rule is published. If the agency determines that the proposed rule may have a significant and direct impact on small businesses and if subsection (4) does not apply, the agency shall prepare a small business impact analysis that, at a minimum, must:

(a) identify by class or group the small businesses probably affected by the proposed rule;

(b) include a statement of the probable significant and direct effects of the proposed rule on the small businesses identified in subsection (1)(a); and

(c) include a description of any alternative methods that may be reasonably implemented to minimize or eliminate any potential adverse effects of adopting the proposed rule while still achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

(2) The agency shall provide documentation for the estimates, statements, and descriptions required under subsection (1).

(3) The office of economic development, established in 2-15-218, shall advise and assist agencies in complying with this section.

(4) An agency is not required to prepare a separate small business impact analysis under this section if the agency pursuant to 2-4-405 is preparing or has prepared an economic impact statement regarding adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule.

(5) The final adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is not subject to challenge in any court as a result of the inaccuracy or inadequacy of a small business impact analysis required under this section.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 2013.**

2-4-112. Administrative rule review committee voting — objections. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the speaker of the house and the president of the senate are ex officio voting members of each administrative rule review committee for the sole purpose of breaking a tie vote on a question before a committee involving an objection to an administrative rule pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4.

(2) If the speaker of the house, the president of the senate, or both, are members of an administrative rule review committee, the highest ranking officer of the majority party that is not a member of the committee is an ex officio voting member for the purposes of subsection (1). The ranking order for the:

(a) house is speaker pro tempore, majority leader, and majority whip; and

(b) senate is president pro tempore, majority leader, and majority whip.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 2021.**

Part 2
Organizational and Procedural Rules

Part Cross-References

Montana Negotiated Rulemaking Act, Title 2, ch. 5, part 1.

2-4-201. Rules describing agency organization and procedures. In addition to other rulemaking requirements imposed by law, each agency shall:

(1) adopt as a rule a description of its organization, stating the general course and method of its operations and the methods whereby the public may obtain information or make submissions or requests. The notice and hearing requirements contained in 2-4-302 do not apply to adoption of a rule relating to a description of its organization.

(2) adopt rules of practice, not inconsistent with statutory provisions, setting forth the nature and requirements of all formal and informal procedures available, including a description of all forms and instructions used by the agency.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203(1)(a), (1)(b).**

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental decisionmaking, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; 2-3-103.

2-4-202. Model rules. (1) The secretary of state shall prepare a model form for a rule describing the organization of agencies and model rules of practice for agencies to use as a guide for the rulemaking process and in fulfilling the requirements of 2-4-201. The attorney general shall prepare model rules of practice for agencies to use as a guide for contested case hearings and declaratory rulings. The secretary of state and attorney general shall add to, amend, or revise the model rules from time to time as necessary for the proper guidance of agencies.

(2) The model rules and additions, amendments, or revisions to the model rules must be appropriate for the use of as many agencies as is practicable and must be filed with the secretary of state and provided to any agency upon request. The adoption by an agency of all or part of the model rules does not relieve the agency from following the rulemaking procedures required by this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203(3); amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 2007.**

Part 3
Adoption and Publication of Rules

Part Cross-References

Montana Negotiated Rulemaking Act, Title 2, ch. 5, part 1.

2-4-301. Authority to adopt not conferred. Except as provided in part 2, nothing in this chapter confers authority upon or augments the authority of any state agency to adopt, administer, or enforce any rule.

History: **En. 82-4204.1 by Sec. 9, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4204.1(part).**

Cross-References
Rule defined, 2-4-102.

2-4-302. Notice, hearing, and submission of views. (1) (a) Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule, the agency shall give written notice of its proposed action. The proposal notice must include a statement of either the terms or substance of the intended action or a description of the subjects and issues involved, the reasonable necessity for the proposed action, and the time when, place where, and manner in which interested persons may present their views on the proposed action. The reasonable necessity must be written in plain, easily understood language.

(b) The agency shall state in the proposal notice the date on which and the manner in which contact was made with the primary sponsor as required in subsection (2)(e). If the notification to the primary sponsor was given by mail, the date stated in the proposal notice must be the date on which the notification was mailed by the agency. If the proposal notice fails to state the date on which and the manner in which the primary sponsor was contacted, the filing of the proposal notice under subsection (2)(a) is ineffective for the purposes of this part and for the purposes of the law that the agency cites in the proposal notice as the authority for the proposed action.

(c) If the agency proposes to adopt, increase, or decrease a monetary amount that a person shall pay or will receive, such as a fee, cost, or benefit, the notice must include an estimate, if known, of:

(i) the cumulative amount for all persons of the proposed increase, decrease, or new amount; and

(ii) the number of persons affected.

(2) (a) The proposal notice must be filed with the secretary of state for publication in the register, as provided in 2-4-312. When the agency files the proposal notice with the secretary of state to prepare it for publication in the register, the agency shall concurrently send an electronic copy of the proposal notice to the appropriate administrative rule review committee. If the secretary of state requires formatting changes to the proposal notice before it may be published, the agency is not required to send another copy of the proposal notice to the committee. The requirement to concurrently send a copy of the proposal notice to the committee is fulfilled if the agency sends an electronic copy to each member of the staff of the appropriate rule review committee on the same day that the notice is filed with the secretary of state.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b)(ii), within 3 days of publication, a copy of the published proposal notice must be sent to interested persons who have made timely requests to the agency to be informed of its rulemaking proceedings, and to the office of any professional, trade, or industrial society or organization or member of those entities who has filed a request with the appropriate administrative rule review committee when the request has been forwarded to the agency as provided in subsection (2)(c).

(ii) In lieu of sending a copy of the published proposal notice to an interested person who has requested the notice, the agency may, with the consent of that person, send that person an electronic notification that the proposal notice is available on the agency's website and an electronic link to the part of the agency's website or a description of the means of locating that part of the agency's website where the notice is available.

(iii) Each agency shall create and maintain a list of interested persons and the subject or subjects in which each person on the list is interested. A person who submits a written comment or attends a hearing in regard to proposed agency action under this part must be informed of the list by the agency. An agency complies with this subsection (2)(b)(iii) if it includes in the proposal notice an advisement explaining how persons may be placed on the list of interested persons and if it complies with subsection (7).

(c) The appropriate administrative rule review committee shall forward a list of all organizations or persons who have submitted a request to be informed of agency actions to the agencies that the committee oversees that publish rulemaking notices in the register. The list must be amended by the agency upon request of any person requesting to be added to or deleted from the list.

(d) The proposal notice required by subsection (1) must be published at least 30 days in advance of the agency's proposed action. The agency shall post the proposal notice on a state digital access system or other electronic communications system available to the public.

(e) (i) When an agency begins to work on the substantive content and the wording of a proposal notice for a rule that initially implements legislation, the agency shall contact, as provided in subsection (8), the legislator who was the primary sponsor of the legislation to:

(A) obtain the legislator's comments;

(B) inform the legislator of the known dates by which each step of the rulemaking process must be completed; and

(C) provide the legislator with information about the time periods during which the legislator may comment on the proposed rules, including the opportunity to provide comment to the appropriate administrative rule review committee.

(ii) If the legislation affected more than one program, the primary sponsor must be contacted pursuant to this subsection (2)(e) each time that a rule is being proposed to initially implement the legislation for a program.

(iii) Within 3 days after a proposal notice covered under subsection (2)(e)(i) has been published as required in subsection (2)(a), a copy of the published notice must be sent to the primary sponsor contacted under this subsection (2)(e).

(3) If a statute provides for a method of publication different from that provided in subsection (2), the affected agency shall comply with the statute in addition to the requirements contained in this section. However, the notice period may not be less than 30 days or more than 6 months.

(4) Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule, the agency shall afford interested persons at least 20 days' notice of a hearing and at least 28 days from the day of the original notice to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in writing. If an amended or supplemental notice is filed, additional time may be allowed for oral or written submissions. In the case of substantive rules, the notice of proposed rulemaking must state that opportunity for oral hearing must be granted if requested by either 10% or 25, whichever is less, of the persons who will be directly affected by the proposed rule, by a governmental subdivision or agency, by the appropriate administrative rule review committee, or by an association having not less than 25 members who will be directly affected. If the proposed rulemaking involves matters of significant interest to the public, the agency shall schedule an oral hearing.

(5) An agency may continue a hearing date for cause. In the discretion of the agency, contested case procedures need not be followed in hearings held pursuant to this section. If a hearing is otherwise required by statute, nothing in this section alters that requirement.

(6) If an agency fails to publish a notice of adoption within the time required by 2-4-305(7) and the agency again proposes the same rule for adoption, amendment, or repeal, the proposal must be considered a new proposal for purposes of compliance with this chapter.

(7) At the commencement of a hearing on the intended action, the person designated by the agency to preside at the hearing shall:

(a) read aloud the "Notice of Function of Administrative Rule Review Committee" appearing in the register; and

(b) inform the persons at the hearing of the provisions of subsection (2)(b) and provide them an opportunity to place their names on the list.

(8) (a) For purposes of contacting primary sponsors under subsection (2)(e), a current or former legislator who wishes to receive notice shall keep the current or former legislator's name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number on file with the secretary of state. The secretary of state may also use legislator contact information provided by the legislative services division for the purposes of the register. The secretary of state shall update the contact information whenever the secretary of state receives corrected information from the legislator or the legislative services division. An agency proposing rules shall consult the register when providing sponsor contact.

(b) An agency has complied with the primary bill sponsor contact requirements of this section when the agency has attempted to reach the primary bill sponsor at the legislator's address, e-mail address, and telephone number on file with the secretary of state pursuant to subsection (8)(a). If the agency is able to contact the primary sponsor by using less than all of these three methods of contact, the other methods need not be used.

(9) This section applies to the department of labor and industry adopting a rule relating to a commercial drug formulary as provided in 39-71-704. This section does not apply to the

automatic updating of department of labor and industry rules relating to commercial drug formularies as provided in 39-71-704.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4204(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 489, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 88, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 21, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 41, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 519, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Submission of comments by electronic mail over Internet, 2-3-301.
Definition of substantive rules, 2-4-102.
Payment of costs — agency may require, 2-4-103.
Administrative rules review committees — call for hearing, 2-4-402.
Estimate of economic impact — published prior to hearing or adoption, 2-4-405.
Adoption, amendment, or repeal of rule — legislative authority, 2-4-412.

2-4-303. Emergency or temporary rules. (1) (a) If an agency finds that an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare requires adoption of a rule upon fewer than 30 days' notice and states in writing its reasons for that finding, it may proceed upon special notice filed with the committee, without prior notice or hearing or upon any abbreviated notice and hearing that it finds practicable, to adopt an emergency rule. The rule may be effective for a period not longer than 120 days, after which a new emergency rule with the same or substantially the same text may not be adopted, but the adoption of an identical rule under 2-4-302 is not precluded. Because the exercise of emergency rulemaking power precludes the people's constitutional right to prior notice and participation in the operations of their government, it constitutes the exercise of extraordinary power requiring extraordinary safeguards against abuse. An emergency rule may be adopted only in circumstances that truly and clearly constitute an existing imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare that cannot be averted or remedied by any other administrative act. The sufficiency of the reasons for a finding of imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare is subject to judicial review upon petition by any person. The matter must be set for hearing at the earliest possible time and takes precedence over all other matters except older matters of the same character. The sufficiency of the reasons justifying a finding of imminent peril and the necessity for emergency rulemaking must be compelling and, as written in the rule adoption notice, must stand on their own merits for purposes of judicial review. The dissemination of emergency rules required by 2-4-306 must be strictly observed and liberally accomplished.

(b) An emergency rule may not be used to implement an administrative budget reduction.

(c) (i) For the purposes of this subsection (1), "special notice" means written notice to each member of the committee and each member of the committee staff using expedient means, such as electronic mail. The special notice must include:

(A) the agency's reasons for its findings of imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare;

(B) the text of the proposed emergency rule or an overview of the rule's substantive changes; and

(C) the estimated date of adoption.

(ii) Prior to adoption of an emergency rule, the agency shall make a good faith effort to provide special notice to each committee member and each member of the committee staff. The adoption notice of the emergency rule must state the date on which and the manner in which written contact was made or attempted with each person required under this subsection (1). If the adoption notice fails to state the date on which and the manner in which written contact was made or attempted for each person required under this subsection (1), the adoption of the emergency rule is ineffective for the purposes of this part.

(2) A statute enacted or amended to be effective prior to October 1 of the year of enactment or amendment may be implemented by a temporary administrative rule, adopted before October 1 of that year, upon any abbreviated notice or hearing that the agency finds practicable, but the rule may not be filed with the secretary of state until at least 30 days have passed

since publication of the notice of proposal to adopt the rule. The temporary rule is effective until October 1 of the year of adoption. The adoption of an identical rule under 2-4-302 is not precluded during the period that the temporary rule is effective.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4204(2); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 489, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Exception to public participation — emergency situation, 2-3-112.
Emergency rules effective upon filing with Secretary of State, 2-4-306.
Immediate judicial review, 2-4-701.

2-4-304. Informal conferences and committees. (1) An agency may use informal conferences and consultations as a means of obtaining the viewpoints and advice of interested persons with respect to contemplated rulemaking.

(2) An agency may also appoint committees of experts or interested persons or representatives of the general public to advise it with respect to any contemplated rulemaking. The powers of the committees shall be advisory only.

(3) Nothing herein shall relieve the agency from following rulemaking procedures required by this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4204(4).

2-4-305. Requisites for validity — authority and statement of reasons. (1) (a) The agency shall fully consider written and oral submissions respecting the proposed rule, including comments submitted by the primary sponsor of the legislation prior to the drafting of the substantive content and wording of a proposed rule that initially implements legislation.

(b) (i) Upon adoption of a rule, an agency shall issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for and against its adoption, incorporating in the statement the reasons for overruling the considerations urged against its adoption. If substantial differences exist between the rule as proposed and as adopted and the differences have not been described or set forth in the adopted rule as that rule is published in the register, the differences must be described in the statement of reasons for and against agency action. When written or oral submissions have not been received, an agency may omit the statement of reasons.

(ii) If an adopted rule that initially implements legislation does not reflect the comments submitted by the primary sponsor, the agency shall provide a statement explaining why the sponsor's comments were not incorporated into the adopted rule.

(2) Rules may not unnecessarily repeat statutory language. Whenever it is necessary to refer to statutory language in order to convey the meaning of a rule interpreting the language, the reference must clearly indicate the portion of the language that is statutory and the portion that is an amplification of the language.

(3) Each proposed and adopted rule must include a citation to the specific grant of rulemaking authority pursuant to which the rule or any part of the rule is adopted. In addition, each proposed and adopted rule must include a citation to the specific section or sections in the Montana Code Annotated that the rule purports to implement. A substantive rule may not be proposed or adopted unless:

(a) a statute granting the agency authority to adopt rules clearly and specifically lists the subject matter of the rule as a subject upon which the agency shall or may adopt rules; or

(b) the rule implements and relates to a subject matter or an agency function that is clearly and specifically included in a statute to which the grant of rulemaking authority extends.

(4) Each rule that is proposed and adopted by an agency and that implements a policy of a governing board or commission must include a citation to and description of the policy implemented. Each agency rule implementing a policy and the policy itself must be based on legal authority and otherwise comply with the requisites for validity of rules established by this chapter.

(5) To be effective, each substantive rule adopted must be within the scope of authority conferred and in accordance with standards prescribed by other provisions of law.

(6) Whenever by the express or implied terms of any statute a state agency has authority to adopt rules to implement, interpret, make specific, or otherwise carry out the provisions of the statute, an adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is not valid or effective unless it is:

(a) consistent and not in conflict with the statute; and

(b) reasonably necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute. A statute mandating that the agency adopt rules establishes the necessity for rules but does not, standing alone, constitute reasonable necessity for a rule. The agency shall also address the reasonableness component of the reasonable necessity requirement by, as indicated in 2-4-302(1) and subsection (1) of this section, stating the principal reasons and the rationale for its intended action and for the particular approach that it takes in complying with the mandate to adopt rules. Subject to the provisions of subsection (8), reasonable necessity must be clearly and thoroughly demonstrated for each adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule in the agency's notice of proposed rulemaking and in the written and oral data, views, comments, or testimony submitted by the public or the agency and considered by the agency. A statement that merely explains what the rule provides is not a statement of the reasonable necessity for the rule.

(7) A rule is not valid unless notice of it is given and it is adopted in substantial compliance with 2-4-302, 2-4-303, or 2-4-306 and this section, unless notice of adoption of the rule is published within 6 months of the publishing of notice of the proposed rule, and unless the adoption is in compliance with the prohibitions of subsection (11). The measure of whether an agency has adopted a rule in substantial compliance with 2-4-302, 2-4-303, or 2-4-306 and this section is not whether the agency has provided notice of the proposed rule, standing alone, but rather must be based on an analysis of the agency's substantial compliance with 2-4-302, 2-4-303, or 2-4-306 and this section. If an amended or supplemental notice of either proposed or final rulemaking, or both, is published concerning the same rule, the 6-month limit must be determined with reference to the latest notice in all cases.

(8) (a) An agency may use an amended proposal notice or the adoption notice to correct deficiencies in citations of authority for rules and in citations of sections implemented by rules.

(b) An agency may use an amended proposal notice but, except for clerical corrections, may not use the adoption notice to correct deficiencies in a statement of reasonable necessity.

(c) If an agency uses an amended proposal notice to amend a statement of reasonable necessity for reasons other than for corrections in citations of authority, in citations of sections being implemented, or of a clerical nature, the agency shall allow additional time for oral or written comments from the same interested persons who were notified of the original proposal notice, including from a primary sponsor, if primary sponsor notification was required under 2-4-302, and from any other person who offered comments or appeared at a hearing already held on the proposed rule.

(9) Subject to 2-4-112, if a majority of the members of the appropriate administrative rule review committee notify the committee presiding officer that those members object to all or a portion of a notice of proposed rulemaking, the committee shall notify the agency in writing that the committee objects to all or a portion of the proposal notice and will address the objections at the next committee meeting. Following notice by the committee to the agency, all or a portion of the proposal notice that the committee objects to may not be adopted until publication of the last issue of the register that is published before expiration of the 6-month period during which the adoption notice must be published, unless prior to that time, the committee meets and does not make the same objection. A copy of the committee's notification to the agency must be included in the committee's records.

(10) This section applies to the department of labor and industry adopting a rule relating to a commercial drug formulary as provided in 39-71-704. This section does not apply to the automatic updating of department of labor and industry rules relating to commercial drug formularies as provided in 39-71-704.

(11) (a) In the year preceding the year in which the legislature meets in regular session, an agency may not adopt a rule between October 1 through the end of the year.

(b) This subsection (11) does not apply to:

(i) an emergency rule adopted under 2-4-303;

(ii) subject to subsection (11)(c)(i), a rule adopted for implementation of a program or policy if the unavailability of information, guidance, or notice precluded adoption of the rule before October 1; or

(iii) subject to subsection (11)(c)(ii), a rule adopted by providing the proposal notice and statement of reasoning with an opportunity to object to the appropriate administrative rule review committee.

(c) (i) A rule may only be exempted under subsection (11)(b)(ii) if the notice required under 2-4-302(1)(a) provides a statement explaining why the unavailability of information, guidance, or notice precluded adoption of the rule before October 1.

(ii) A rule may be exempted under subsection (11)(b)(iii) only if the agency provides a copy of the proposal notice and an explanation of the reason why the rule must be adopted before the end of the year by electronic mail to each member of the committee and the committee staff. If the committee does not object to the proposal within 10 business days after the electronic mail of the proposal and explanation has been sent to the committee, the agency may proceed with adoption of the proposed rule. If, during the 10-day review period, a majority of the members notify the committee presiding officer that those members object to the proposed rulemaking, the presiding officer shall notify the agency by electronic mail that the committee objects. Following notice of the objection, a rule may not be adopted before the end of the year.

History: Ap.p. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 285, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4204, R.C.M. 1947; Ap.p. 82-4204.1 by Sec. 9, Ch. 285, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4204.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4204(part), 82-4204.1(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 381, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 78, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 466, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 420, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 152, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 489, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 21, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 152, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 303, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 433, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 100, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 102, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 519, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 2, Ch. 282, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to rule proposals published on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Submission of comments by electronic mail over Internet, 2-3-301.
Publication, 2-4-302.
Review of rulemaking record by administrative rules review committees, 2-4-402.

2-4-306. Filing and format — adoption and effective dates — dissemination of emergency rules. (1) Each agency shall file with the secretary of state a copy of each rule adopted by it or a reference to the rule as contained in the proposal notice. A rule is adopted on the date that the adoption notice is filed with the secretary of state and is effective on the date referred to in subsection (4), except that if the secretary of state requests corrections to the adoption notice, the rule is adopted on the date that the revised notice is filed with the secretary of state.

(2) Pursuant to 2-15-401, the secretary of state may prescribe rules to effectively administer this chapter, including rules regarding the printed or electronic format, style, and arrangement for notices and rules that are filed pursuant to this chapter, and may refuse to accept the filing of any notice or rule that is not in compliance with this chapter and the secretary of state's rules. The secretary of state shall keep and maintain a permanent register of all notices and rules filed, including superseded and repealed rules, that must be open to public inspection and shall provide copies of any notice or rule upon request of any person. Unless otherwise provided by statute, the secretary of state may require the payment of the cost of providing copies.

(3) If the appropriate administrative rule review committee has conducted a poll of the legislature in accordance with 2-4-403, the results of the poll must be published with the rule if the rule is adopted by the agency.

(4) Each rule is effective after publication in the register, as provided in 2-4-312, except that:

(a) if a later date is required by statute or specified in the rule, the later date is the effective date;

(b) subject to applicable constitutional or statutory provisions:

(i) a temporary rule is effective immediately upon filing with the secretary of state or at a stated date following publication in the register; and

(ii) an emergency rule is effective at a stated date following publication in the register or immediately upon filing with the secretary of state if the agency finds that this effective date is necessary because of imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare. The agency's finding and a brief statement of reasons for the finding must be filed with the rule. The agency shall, in addition to the required publication in the register, take appropriate and extraordinary measures to make emergency rules known to each person who may be affected by them.

(c) if, following written administrative rule review committee notification to an agency under 2-4-305(9), the committee meets and under 2-4-406(1) objects to all or some portion of a proposed rule before the proposed rule is adopted, the proposed rule or portion of the proposed rule objected to is not effective until the day after final adjournment of the regular session of the legislature that begins after the notice proposing the rule was published by the secretary of state, unless, following the committee's objection under 2-4-406(1) and subject to 2-4-112:

(i) the committee withdraws its objection under 2-4-406 before the proposed rule is adopted; or

(ii) the rule or portion of a rule objected to is adopted with changes that in the opinion of a majority of the committee members, as communicated in writing to the committee presiding officer and staff, make it comply with the committee's objection and concerns.

(5) An agency may not enforce, implement, or otherwise treat as effective a rule proposed or adopted by the agency until the effective date of the rule as provided in this section. Nothing in this subsection prohibits an agency from enforcing an established policy or practice of the agency that existed prior to the proposal or adoption of the rule as long as the policy or practice is within the scope of the agency's lawful authority.

(6) This section applies to the department of labor and industry adopting a rule relating to a commercial drug formulary as provided in 39-71-704. This section does not apply to the automatic updating of department of labor and industry rules relating to commercial drug formularies as provided in 39-71-704.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 561, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4205(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 268, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 261, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 335, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 489, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 370, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 303, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 489, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 433, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 102, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Emergency or temporary rules, 2-4-303.

Publication of economic impact estimate of rule, 2-4-405.

2-4-307. Omissions from ARM or register. (1) An agency may adopt by reference any model code, federal agency rule, rule of any agency of this state, or other similar publication if:

(a) the publication of the model code, rule, or other publication would be unduly cumbersome, expensive, or otherwise inexpedient; and

(b) it is reasonable for the agency to adopt the model code, rule, or other publication for the state of Montana.

(2) The model code, rule, or other publication must be adopted by reference in a rule adopted under the rulemaking procedure required by this chapter. The rule must contain a citation to the material adopted by reference and a statement of the general subject matter of the omitted rule and must state where a copy of the omitted material may be obtained. Upon request of the secretary of state, a copy of the omitted material must be filed with the secretary of state.

(3) (a) The model code, rule, or other publication to be adopted by an agency pursuant to subsection (1):

(i) must be in existence at the time that the agency's notice of proposed rulemaking is published in the register;

(ii) must be available to the public for comment, through either publication in the register or publication in an electronic format on the agency's web page, during the time that the rule adopting the model code, rule, or other publication is itself subject to public comment; and

(iii) except as provided in subsection (3)(b), may not be altered between the time of publication of the notice of proposed rulemaking and the publication of the notice of adoption by the agency proposing the rule unless the alteration is required in order to respond to comments in the rulemaking record of the adopting agency.

(b) If the model code, rule, or other publication is altered by the agency between the time of the publication of the notice of proposed rulemaking and the notice of adoption, the part of the model code, rule, or other publication that is altered by the agency is not adopted unless that part is also subject to a separate process of adoption as provided in this section.

(c) If the model code, rule, or other publication is made available on the agency's website, the website may provide either the full text of the model code, rule, or other publication or a link to the source of the official electronic text of the model code, rule, or other publication.

(4) A rule originally adopting by reference any model code or rule provided for in subsection (1) may not adopt any later amendments or editions of the material adopted. Except as provided in subsection (6), each later amendment or edition may be adopted by reference only by following the rulemaking procedure required by this chapter.

(5) If requested by a three-fourths vote of the appropriate administrative rule review committee, an agency shall immediately publish the full or partial text of any pertinent material adopted by reference under this section. The committee may not require the publication of copyrighted material. Publication of the text of a rule previously adopted does not affect the date of adoption of the rule, but publication of the text of a rule before publication of the notice of final adoption must be in the form of and is considered to be a new notice of proposed rulemaking.

(6) Whenever later amendments of federal regulations must be adopted to comply with federal law or to qualify for federal funding, only a notice of incorporation by reference of the later amendments must be filed in the register. This notice must contain the information required by subsection (2) and must state the effective date of the incorporation. The effective date may be no sooner than 30 days after the date upon which the notice is published unless the 30 days causes a delay that jeopardizes compliance with federal law or qualification for federal funding, in which event the effective date may be no sooner than the date of publication. A hearing is not required unless requested under 2-4-315 by either 10% or 25, whichever is less, of the persons who will be directly affected by the incorporation, by a governmental subdivision or agency, or by an association having not less than 25 members who will be directly affected. Further notice of adoption or preparation of a replacement page for the ARM is not required.

(7) If a hearing is requested under subsection (6), the petition for hearing must contain a request for an amendment and may contain suggested language, reasons for an amendment, and any other information pertinent to the subject of the rule.

(8) This section does not apply to the automatic updating of department of labor and industry rules relating to commercial drug formularies as provided in 39-71-704.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4206(3); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 591, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 433, L. 2017.

2-4-308. Adjective or interpretive rule — statement of implied authority and legal effect. (1) Each adjective or interpretive rule or portion of an adjective or interpretive rule to be adopted under implied rulemaking authority must contain a statement in the historical notations of the rule that the rule is advisory only but may be a correct interpretation of the law. The statement must be placed in the ARM when the rule in question is scheduled for reprinting.

(2) Subject to 2-4-112, the appropriate administrative rule review committee may file with the secretary of state, for publication with any rule or portion of a rule that it considers to be adjective or interpretive, a statement indicating that it is the opinion of the appropriate administrative rule review committee that the rule or portion of a rule is adjective or interpretive and therefore advisory only. If the committee requests the statement to be published for an adopted rule not scheduled for reprinting in the ARM, the cost of publishing the statement in the ARM must be paid by the committee.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 637, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 102, L. 2021.

2-4-309. Rulemaking authority for laws not yet effective — rule not effective until law effective. Unless otherwise provided in the statute, an agency may proceed with rulemaking under this chapter after the enactment of a statute to be implemented by rule, but a rule may not become effective prior to the effective date of the statute.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 2001.

2-4-310 reserved.

2-4-311. Publication and arrangement of ARM. (1) The secretary of state shall compile, index, arrange, rearrange, correct errors or inconsistencies without changing the meaning, intent, or effect of any rule, and publish all rules filed pursuant to this chapter in the ARM. The secretary of state shall supplement, revise, and publish the ARM or any part of the ARM as often as the secretary of state considers necessary. The secretary of state may include editorial notes, cross-references, and other matter that the secretary of state considers desirable or advantageous. The secretary of state shall publish supplements to the ARM at the times and in the form that the secretary of state considers appropriate.

(2) The secretary of state shall publish the ARM, including supplements or revisions to the ARM, in a printable electronic format and make the electronic version of the ARM freely available through the secretary of state's website.

(3) The ARM must be arranged, indexed, and published or duplicated in a manner that permits separate publication of portions relating to individual agencies. An agency may make arrangements with the secretary of state for the printing or electronic distribution of as many copies of the separate publications as it may require. The secretary of state may charge a fee for any separate printed or electronic publications. The fee must be set and deposited in accordance with 2-15-405 and must be paid by the agency.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4206(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 303, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 2017.

2-4-312. Publication and arrangement of register. (1) The secretary of state shall publish in the register all notices, rules, and interpretations filed with the secretary of state at least once a month but not more often than twice a month.

(2) The secretary of state shall publish the register in a printable electronic format and make each issue of the register freely available through the secretary of state's website. The secretary of state shall maintain a permanent archive of the register.

(3) The register must contain three sections, including a rules section, a notice section, and an interpretation section, as follows:

(a) The rules section of the register must contain all rules filed since the compilation and publication of the preceding issue of the register, together with the statements required under 2-4-305(1).

(b) The notice section of the register must contain all rulemaking notices filed with the secretary of state pursuant to 2-4-302 since the compilation and publication of the preceding register.

(c) The interpretation section of the register must contain all opinions of the attorney general and all declaratory rulings of agencies issued since the publication of the preceding register.

(4) Each issue of the register must contain the issue number and date of the register and a table of contents. Each page of the register must contain the issue number and date of the register of which it is a part. The secretary of state may include with the register information to help the user in relating the register to the ARM.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4206(2), (9); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 580, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 396, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 88, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 21, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 80, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Declaratory rulings, 2-4-501.

2-4-313. Copies — subscriptions — fees. (1) The secretary of state may make printed copies, subscriptions, supplements, or revisions to the ARM or the register available to any person for a fee set in accordance with subsection (4). Fees are not refundable.

(2) The secretary of state may charge agencies a filing fee for all material to be published in the ARM or the register.

(3) In addition to the fees authorized by 2-4-311 and other fees authorized by this section, the secretary of state may charge fees for internet or other computer-based services requested by state agencies, groups, or individuals.

(4) The secretary of state shall set and deposit the fees authorized in this section in accordance with 2-15-405.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4206(5) thru (8), (10), (11); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 397, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 580, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, Sp. L. January 1992; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 411, L. 1993; amd. sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 396, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 303, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 80, L. 2017.**

2-4-314. Biennial review by agencies — recommendations by committee. (1) Each agency shall at least biennially review its rules to determine if any new rule should be adopted or any existing rule should be modified or repealed.

(2) Subject to 2-4-112, the committee may recommend to the legislature those modifications, additions, or deletions of agency rulemaking authority which the committee considers necessary.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4204(6); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 600, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 381, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 102, L. 2021.**

2-4-315. Petition for adoption, amendment, or repeal of rules. An interested person or, when the legislature is not in session, a member of the legislature on behalf of an interested person may petition an agency requesting the promulgation, amendment, or repeal of a rule. Each agency shall determine and prescribe by rule the form for petitions and the procedure for their submission, consideration, and disposition. Within 60 days after submission of a petition, the agency either shall deny the petition in writing or shall initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with 2-4-302 through 2-4-305. A decision to deny a petition or to initiate rulemaking proceedings must be in writing and based on record evidence. The written decision must include the reasons for the decision. Record evidence must include any evidence submitted by the petitioner on behalf of the petition and by the agency and interested persons in response to the petition. An agency may, but is not required to, conduct a hearing or oral presentation on the petition in order to develop a record and record evidence and to allow the petitioner and interested persons to present their views.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 236, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4207; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Adoption or amendment of rule — legislative authority, 2-4-412.

2-4-316 through 2-4-320 reserved.

2-4-321. Repealed. Sec. 63, Ch. 16, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 600, L. 1979.**

2-4-322. Repealed. Sec. 63, Ch. 16, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 600, L. 1979.**

2-4-323. Repealed. Sec. 63, Ch. 16, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 600, L. 1979.**

Part 4
Legislative Review of Rules

2-4-401. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: **(1)En. 82-4203.4 by Sec. 3, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 285, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4203.4, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. 82-4203.3 by Sec. 2, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 103, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4203.3, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203.3, 82-4203.4; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 302, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 545, L. 1995.**

2-4-402. Powers of committees — duty to review rules. (1) The administrative rule review committees shall review all proposed rules filed with the secretary of state.

(2) Subject to 2-4-112, the appropriate administrative rule review committee may:

(a) request and obtain an agency's rulemaking records for the purpose of reviewing compliance with 2-4-305;

(b) prepare written recommendations for the adoption, amendment, or rejection of a rule and submit those recommendations to the department proposing the rule and submit oral or written testimony at a rulemaking hearing;

(c) require that a rulemaking hearing be held in accordance with the provisions of 2-4-302 through 2-4-305;

(d) institute, intervene in, or otherwise participate in proceedings involving this chapter in the state and federal courts and administrative agencies;

(e) review the incidence and conduct of administrative proceedings under this chapter.

History: En. 82-4203.5 by Sec. 4, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 561, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203.5(1)(a) thru (1)(c); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 268, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 381, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 78, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 572, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 102, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Necessity to be demonstrated in rulemaking record, 2-4-305(6).

Legislative interim committees — duties, 5-5-215.

2-4-403. Legislative intent — poll. (1) Subject to 2-4-112, if the legislature is not in session, the committee may poll all members of the legislature by mail to determine whether a proposed rule is consistent with the intent of the legislature.

(2) If 20 or more legislators object to a proposed rule, the committee shall poll the members of the legislature.

(3) The poll must include an opportunity for the agency to present a written justification for the proposed rule to the members of the legislature.

History: En. 82-4203.5 by Sec. 4, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 561, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203.5(1)(d), (1)(e); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 87, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 102, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Publication of poll results, 2-4-306.

2-4-404. Evidentiary value of legislative poll. If the appropriate administrative rule review committee has conducted a poll of the legislature in accordance with 2-4-403, the results of the poll must be admissible in any court proceeding involving the validity of the proposed rule or the validity of the adopted rule if the rule was adopted by the agency. If the poll determines that a majority of the members of both houses find that the proposed rule or adopted rule is contrary to the intent of the legislature, the proposed rule or adopted rule must be conclusively presumed to be contrary to the legislative intent in any court proceeding involving its validity.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 561, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4205(3); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 87, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Poll results to be published with rule, 2-4-306.

2-4-405. Economic impact statement. (1) Subject to 2-4-112, on written request of the appropriate administrative rule review committee based upon the affirmative request of a majority of the members of the committee at an open meeting, an agency shall prepare a statement of the economic impact of the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule as proposed. The agency shall also prepare a statement upon receipt by the agency or the committee of a written request for a statement made by at least 15 legislators. If the request is received by the committee, the committee shall give the agency a copy of the request, and if the request is received by the agency, the agency shall give the committee a copy of the request. As an alternative, the committee may, by contract, prepare the estimate.

(2) Except to the extent that the request expressly waives any one or more of the following, the requested statement must include and the statement prepared by the committee may include:

(a) a description of the classes of persons who will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule and classes that will benefit from the proposed rule;

(b) a description of the probable economic impact of the proposed rule upon affected classes of persons, including but not limited to providers of services under contracts with the state and affected small businesses, and quantifying, to the extent practicable, that impact;

(c) the probable costs to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule and any anticipated effect on state revenue;

(d) an analysis comparing the costs and benefits of the proposed rule to the costs and benefits of inaction;

(e) an analysis that determines whether there are less costly or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule;

(f) an analysis of any alternative methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule that were seriously considered by the agency and the reasons why they were rejected in favor of the proposed rule;

(g) a determination as to whether the proposed rule represents an efficient allocation of public and private resources; and

(h) a quantification or description of the data upon which subsections (2)(a) through (2)(g) are based and an explanation of how the data was gathered.

(3) A request to an agency for a statement or a decision to contract for the preparation of a statement must be made prior to the final agency action on the rule. The statement must be filed with the appropriate administrative rule review committee within 3 months of the request or decision. A request or decision for an economic impact statement may be withdrawn at any time.

(4) Subject to 2-4-112, on receipt of an impact statement, the committee shall determine the sufficiency of the statement. If the committee determines that the statement is insufficient, the committee may return it to the agency or other person who prepared the statement and request that corrections or amendments be made. If the committee determines that the statement is sufficient, a notice, including a summary of the statement and indicating where a copy of the statement may be obtained, must be filed with the secretary of state for publication in the register by the agency preparing the statement or by the committee, if the statement is prepared under contract by the committee, and must be mailed to persons who have registered advance notice of the agency's rulemaking proceedings.

(5) This section does not apply to rulemaking pursuant to 2-4-303.

(6) The final adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is not subject to challenge in any court as a result of the inaccuracy or inadequacy of a statement required under this section.

(7) An environmental impact statement prepared pursuant to 75-1-201 that includes an analysis of the factors listed in this section satisfies the provisions of this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 665, L. 1983; (6)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 665, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 339, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 265, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 102, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Notice and hearing on rules, 2-4-302.
Publication, 2-4-306.

2-4-406. Committee objection to violation of authority for rule — effect. (1) Subject to 2-4-112, if the appropriate administrative rule review committee objects to all or some portion of a proposed or adopted rule because the committee considers it not to have been proposed or adopted in substantial compliance with 2-4-302, 2-4-303, and 2-4-305, the committee shall send a written objection to the agency that promulgated the rule. The objection must contain a concise statement of the committee's reasons for its action.

(2) Within 14 days after the mailing of a committee objection to a rule, the agency promulgating the rule shall respond in writing to the committee. After receipt of the response, the committee may withdraw or modify its objection.

(3) Subject to 2-4-112, if the committee fails to withdraw or substantially modify its objection to a rule, it may vote to send the objection to the secretary of state, who shall, upon receipt of the objection, publish the objection in the register adjacent to any notice of adoption of the rule and in the ARM adjacent to the rule, provided an agency response must also be published if requested by the agency. Costs of publication of the objection and the agency response must be paid by the committee.

(4) If an objection to all or a portion of a rule has been published pursuant to subsection (3), the agency bears the burden, in any action challenging the legality of the rule or portion of a rule objected to by the committee, of proving that the rule or portion of the rule objected to was adopted in substantial compliance with 2-4-302, 2-4-303, and 2-4-305. If a rule is invalidated by court judgment because the agency failed to meet its burden of proof imposed by this subsection and the court finds that the rule was adopted in arbitrary and capricious disregard for the purposes of the authorizing statute, the court may award costs and reasonable attorney fees against the agency.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 589, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 102, L. 2021.

2-4-407 through 2-4-409 reserved.

2-4-410. Report of litigation. Each agency shall report to the appropriate administrative rule review committee any judicial proceedings in which the construction or interpretation of any provision of this chapter is in issue and may report to the committee any proceeding in which the construction or interpretation of any rule of the agency is in issue. Subject to 2-4-112, on request of the committee, copies of documents filed in any proceeding in which the construction or interpretation of either this chapter or an agency rule is in issue must be made available to the committee by the agency involved.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 381, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 102, L. 2021.

2-4-411. Report. Subject to 2-4-112, the committee may recommend amendments to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act or the repeal, amendment, or adoption of a rule as provided in 2-4-412 and make other recommendations and reports as it considers advisable.

History: En. 82-4203.5 by Sec. 4, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 285, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 561, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203.5(2); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 102, L. 2021.

2-4-412. Legislative review of rules — effect of failure to object. (1) (a) The legislature may, by bill, repeal any rule in the ARM. If a rule is repealed, the legislature shall in the bill state its objections to the repealed rule. If an agency adopts a new rule to replace the repealed rule, the agency shall adopt the new rule in accordance with the objections stated by the legislature in the bill. If the legislature does not repeal a rule filed with it before the adjournment of that regular session, the rule remains valid.

(b) The legislature may, by joint resolution, repeal a rule or amendment to a rule in the ARM that was adopted after final adjournment of the most recent regular legislative session. If an agency adopts a new rule to replace the repealed rule, the agency shall adopt the new rule in accordance with the objections stated by the legislature in the joint resolution. In order to be effective, the joint resolution must be passed during the regular session and not during a special session. After the regular session adjourns, the rule or the amendment to the rule that was adopted during the period between the two regular legislative sessions remains valid and may not be repealed using a joint resolution.

(2) The legislature may also by joint resolution request or advise or by bill direct the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule. If a change in a rule or the adoption of an additional rule is advised, requested, or directed to be made, the legislature shall in the joint resolution or bill state the nature of the change or the additional rule to be made and its reasons for the change or addition. The agency shall, in the manner provided in the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, adopt a new rule in accordance with the legislative direction in a bill.

(3) Rules and changes in rules made by agencies under subsection (2) must conform and be pursuant to statutory authority.

(4) Failure of the legislature or the appropriate administrative rule review committee to object in any manner to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is inadmissible in the courts of this state to prove the validity of any rule.

History: En. 82-4203.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203.1; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 381, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Declaratory rulings to be published, 2-3-113.
Petition for adoption, amendment, or repeal of rules, 2-4-315.

Part 5
Judicial Notice and Declaratory Rulings

2-4-501. Declaratory rulings by agencies. Each agency shall provide by rule for the filing and prompt disposition of petitions for declaratory rulings as to the applicability of any statutory provision or of any rule or order of the agency. A copy of a declaratory ruling must be filed with the secretary of state for publication in the register. A declaratory ruling or the refusal to issue such a ruling shall be subject to judicial review in the same manner as decisions or orders in contested cases.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4218; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 243, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Judicial review of contested cases, 2-4-702 through 2-4-704.

2-4-502 through 2-4-504 reserved.

2-4-505. Judicial notice of rules. The courts shall take judicial notice of any rule filed and published under the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4208.

2-4-506. Declaratory judgments on validity or application of rules. (1) A rule may be declared invalid or inapplicable in an action for declaratory judgment if it is found that the rule or its threatened application interferes with or impairs or threatens to interfere with or impair the legal rights or privileges of the plaintiff.

(2) A rule may also be declared invalid in the action on the grounds that the rule was adopted with an arbitrary or capricious disregard for the purpose of the authorizing statute as evidenced by documented legislative intent.

(3) A declaratory judgment may be rendered whether or not the plaintiff has requested the agency to pass upon the validity or applicability of the rule in question.

(4) The action may be brought in the district court for the county in which the plaintiff resides or has a principal place of business or in which the agency maintains its principal office. The agency must be made a party to the action.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 560, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4219; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 243, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 589, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Administrative rules review committees — power to review rules, 2-4-402.
Poll of Legislature — presumption of intent, 2-4-404.
Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act, Title 27, ch. 8.

Part 6
Contested Cases

2-4-601. Notice. (1) In a contested case, all parties must be afforded an opportunity for hearing after reasonable notice.

(2) The notice must include:

(a) a statement of the time, place, and nature of the hearing;

(b) a statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;

(c) a reference to the particular sections of the statutes and rules involved;

(d) a short and plain statement of the matters asserted. If the agency or other party is unable to state the matters in detail at the time the notice is served, the initial notice may be limited to a statement of the issues involved. Thereafter, upon application, a more definite and detailed statement must be furnished.

(e) a statement that a formal proceeding may be waived pursuant to 2-4-603.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4209(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1979.

2-4-602. Discovery. Each agency shall provide in its rules of practice for discovery prior to a contested case hearing.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4220(3).

2-4-603. Informal disposition and hearings — waiver of administrative proceedings — recording and use of settlement proceeds. (1) (a) Unless precluded by law, informal disposition may be made of any contested case by stipulation, agreed settlement, consent order, or default. A stipulation, agreed settlement, consent order, or default that disposes of a contested case must be in writing.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by law, if a stipulation, agreed settlement, consent order, or default results in a monetary settlement involving an agency or the state, settlement proceeds must be deposited in the account or fund in which the penalty, fine, or other payment would be deposited if the contested case had proceeded to final decision. If there is no account or fund designated for the fine, penalty, or payment in the type of action, then the settlement must be deposited in the general fund.

(c) If a stipulation, agreed settlement, consent order, or default results in a nonmonetary settlement involving an agency or the state, settlement proceeds, whether received by the state or a third party, must be recorded in a nonstate, nonfederal state special revenue account established pursuant to 17-2-102(1)(b)(i) for the purpose of recording nonmonetary settlements.

(2) Except as otherwise provided, parties to a contested case may jointly waive in writing a formal proceeding under this part. The parties may then use informal proceedings under 2-4-604. Parties to contested case proceedings held under Title 37 or under any other provision relating to licensure to pursue a profession or occupation may not waive formal proceedings.

(3) If a contested case does not involve a disputed issue of material fact, parties may jointly stipulate in writing to waive contested case proceedings and may directly petition the district court for judicial review pursuant to 2-4-702. The petition must contain an agreed statement of facts and a statement of the legal issues or contentions of the parties upon which the court, together with the additions it may consider necessary to fully present the issues, may make its decision.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4209(4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 277, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 451, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 305, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 347, L. 2005.

2-4-604. Informal proceedings. (1) In proceedings under this section, the agency shall, in accordance with procedures adopted under 2-4-201:

(a) give affected persons or parties or their counsel an opportunity, at a convenient time and place, to present to the agency or hearing examiner:

(i) written or oral evidence in opposition to the agency's action or refusal to act;

(ii) a written statement challenging the grounds upon which the agency has chosen to justify its action or inaction; or

(iii) other written or oral evidence relating to the contested case;

(b) if the objections of the persons or parties are overruled, provide a written explanation within 7 days.

(2) The record must consist of:

(a) the notice and summary of grounds of the opposition;

(b) evidence offered or considered;

(c) any objections and rulings on the objections;

(d) all matters placed on the record after ex parte communication pursuant to 2-4-613;

(e) a recording of any hearing held, together with a statement of the substance of the evidence received or considered, the written or oral statements of the parties or other persons, and the proceedings. A party may object in writing to the statement or may order at that party's cost a transcription of the recording, or both. Objections become a part of the record.

(3) Agencies shall give effect to the rules of privilege recognized by law.

(4) In agency proceedings under this section, irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence must be excluded but all other evidence of a type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs is admissible, whether or not the evidence is admissible in a trial in the courts of Montana. Any part of the evidence may be received in written form, and all testimony of parties and witnesses must be made under oath. Hearsay evidence may be used for the purpose of supplementing or explaining other evidence, but it is not sufficient in itself to support a finding unless it is admissible over objection in civil actions.

(5) A party may petition for review of an informal agency decision pursuant to part 7 of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Privileges, Title 26, ch. 1, part 8.

2-4-605 through 2-4-610 reserved.

2-4-611. Hearing examiners — legal services unit — conduct of hearings — disqualification of hearing examiners and agency members. (1) An agency may appoint hearing examiners for the conduct of hearings in contested cases. A hearing examiner must be assigned with due regard to the expertise required for the particular matter.

(2) An agency may elect to request a hearing examiner from an agency legal assistance program, if any, within the attorney general's office or from another agency. If the request is

honored, the time, date, and place of the hearing must be set by the agency, with the concurrence of the legal assistance program or the other agency.

(3) Agency members or hearing examiners presiding over hearings may administer oaths or affirmations; issue subpoenas pursuant to 2-4-104; provide for the taking of testimony by deposition; regulate the course of hearings, including setting the time and place for continued hearings and fixing the time for filing of briefs or other documents; and direct parties to appear and confer to consider simplification of the issues by consent of the parties.

(4) On the filing by a party, hearing examiner, or agency member in good faith of a timely and sufficient affidavit of personal bias, lack of independence, disqualification by law, or other disqualification of a hearing examiner or agency member, the agency shall determine the matter as a part of the record and decision in the case. The agency may disqualify the hearing examiner or agency member and request another hearing examiner pursuant to subsection (2) or assign another hearing examiner from within the agency. The affidavit must state the facts and the reasons for the belief that the hearing examiner should be disqualified and must be filed not less than 10 days before the original date set for the hearing.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4211(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 3, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Power to administer oaths, 2-16-116.
Affidavits, Title 26, ch. 1, part 10.

2-4-612. Hearing — rules of evidence, cross-examination, judicial notice. (1) Opportunity shall be afforded all parties to respond and present evidence and argument on all issues involved.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by statute relating directly to an agency, agencies shall be bound by common law and statutory rules of evidence. Objections to evidentiary offers may be made and shall be noted in the record. When a hearing will be expedited and the interests of the parties will not be prejudiced substantially, any part of the evidence may be received in written form.

(3) Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts if the original is not readily available. Upon request, parties shall be given an opportunity to compare the copy with the original.

(4) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation.

(5) A party shall have the right to conduct cross-examinations required for a full and true disclosure of facts, including the right to cross-examine the author of any document prepared by or on behalf of or for the use of the agency and offered in evidence.

(6) Notice may be taken of judicially cognizable facts. In addition, notice may be taken of generally recognized technical or scientific facts within the agency's specialized knowledge. Parties shall be notified either before or during the hearing or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise of the material noticed, including any staff memoranda or data. They shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the material so noticed.

(7) The agency's experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge may be utilized in the evaluation of evidence.

History: En. Secs. 9, 10, 11, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4209(3), 82-4210, 82-4211(part).

Cross-References

Evidence, Title 26.

2-4-613. Ex parte consultations. Unless required for disposition of ex parte matters authorized by law, the person or persons who are charged with the duty of rendering a decision or to make findings of fact and conclusions of law in a contested case, after issuance of notice of hearing, may not communicate with any party or a party's representative in connection with any issue of fact or law in the case except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4214; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Informal proceedings — record to include ex parte communications, 2-4-604.

2-4-614. Record — transcription. (1) The record in a contested case must include:

(a) all pleadings, motions, and intermediate rulings;

(b) all evidence received or considered, including a stenographic record of oral proceedings when demanded by a party;

(c) a statement of matters officially noticed;

(d) questions and offers of proof, objections, and rulings on those objections;

(e) proposed findings and exceptions;

(f) any decision, opinion, or report by the hearings examiner or agency member presiding at the hearing, which must be in writing;

(g) all staff memoranda or data submitted to the hearings examiner or members of the agency as evidence in connection with their consideration of the case.

(2) The stenographic record of oral proceedings or any part of the stenographic record must be transcribed on request of any party. Unless otherwise provided by statute, the cost of the transcription must be paid by the requesting party.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4209(5), (6); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 347, L. 2005.

2-4-615 through 2-4-620 reserved.

2-4-621. When absent members render decision — proposal for decision and opportunity to submit findings and conclusions — modification by agency. (1) When in a contested case a majority of the officials of the agency who are to render the final decision have not heard the case, the decision, if adverse to a party to the proceeding other than the agency itself, may not be made until a proposal for decision is served upon the parties and an opportunity is afforded to each party adversely affected to file exceptions and present briefs and oral argument to the officials who are to render the decision.

(2) The proposal for decision must contain a statement of the reasons for the decision and of each issue of fact or law necessary to the proposed decision and must be prepared by the person who conducted the hearing unless that person becomes unavailable to the agency.

(3) The agency may adopt the proposal for decision as the agency's final order. The agency in its final order may reject or modify the conclusions of law and interpretation of administrative rules in the proposal for decision but may not reject or modify the findings of fact unless the agency first determines from a review of the complete record and states with particularity in the order that the findings of fact were not based upon competent substantial evidence or that the proceedings on which the findings were based did not comply with essential requirements of law. The agency may accept or reduce the recommended penalty in a proposal for decision but may not increase it without a review of the complete record.

(4) A hearings officer who is a member of an agency adjudicative body may participate in the formulation of the agency's final order, provided that the hearings officer has completed all duties as the hearings officer.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4212(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 277, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-4-622. When hearings officer unavailable for decision. (1) If the person who conducted the hearing becomes unavailable to the agency, proposed findings of fact may be prepared by a person who has read the record only if the demeanor of witnesses is considered immaterial by all parties.

(2) The parties may waive compliance with 2-4-621 and this section by written stipulation.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4212(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

2-4-623. Final orders — notification — availability. (1) (a) A final decision or order adverse to a party in a contested case must be in writing. A final decision must include findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated. Findings of fact, if set forth in statutory language, must be accompanied by a concise and explicit statement of the underlying facts supporting the findings. Except as provided in 75-2-213 and 75-20-223, a final decision must be issued within 90 days after a contested case is considered to be submitted for a final decision unless, for good cause shown, the period is extended for an additional time not to exceed 30 days.

(b) If an agency intends to issue a final written decision in a contested case that grants or denies relief and the relief that is granted or denied differs materially from a final agency decision that was orally announced on the record, the agency may not issue the final written decision without first providing notice to the parties and an opportunity to be heard before the agency.

(2) Findings of fact must be based exclusively on the evidence and on matters officially noticed.

(3) Each conclusion of law must be supported by authority or by a reasoned opinion.

(4) If, in accordance with agency rules, a party submitted proposed findings of fact, the decision must include a ruling upon each proposed finding.

(5) Parties must be notified by mail of any decision or order. Upon request, a copy of the decision or order must be delivered or mailed in a timely manner to each party and to each party's attorney of record.

(6) Each agency shall index and make available for public inspection all final decisions and orders, including declaratory rulings under 2-4-501. An agency decision or order is not valid or effective against any person or party, and it may not be invoked by the agency for any purpose until it has been made available for public inspection as required in this section. This provision is not applicable in favor of any person or party who has actual knowledge of the decision or order or when a state statute or federal statute or regulation prohibits public disclosure of the contents of a decision or order.

History: **(1), (3) thru (6)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 285, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4213, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; Sec. 82-4209, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4209(7), 82-4213; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 347, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 571, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 445, L. 2009.**

2-4-624 through 2-4-630 reserved.

2-4-631. Licenses. (1) When the grant, denial, renewal, revocation, suspension, annulment, withdrawal, limitation, transfer, or amendment of a license is required by law to be preceded by notice and opportunity for hearing, the provisions of this chapter concerning contested cases apply.

(2) When a licensee has made timely and sufficient application for the renewal of a license or a new license with reference to any activity of a continuing nature, the existing license does not expire until the application has been finally determined by the agency and, in case the application is denied or the terms of the new license limited, until the last day for seeking review of the agency order or a later date fixed by order of the reviewing court.

(3) Whenever notice is required, no revocation, suspension, annulment, withdrawal, or amendment of any license is lawful unless the agency gave notice by mail to the licensee of facts or conduct which warrant the intended action. If the agency finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action. These proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4215; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 465, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Appeals — staying agency decision, 2-4-711.

Part 7
Judicial Review of Contested Cases

2-4-701. Immediate review of agency action. A preliminary, procedural, or intermediate agency action or ruling is immediately reviewable if review of the final agency decision would not provide an adequate remedy.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4216(part).**

2-4-702. *(Temporary)* **Initiating judicial review of contested cases.** (1) (a) Except as provided in 75-2-213 and 75-20-223, a person who has exhausted all administrative remedies available within the agency and who is aggrieved by a final written decision in a contested case is entitled to judicial review under this chapter. This section does not limit use of or the scope of judicial review available under other means of review, redress, relief, or trial de novo provided by statute.

(b) A party who proceeds before an agency under the terms of a particular statute may not be precluded from questioning the validity of that statute on judicial review, but the party may not raise any other question not raised before the agency unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that there was good cause for failure to raise the question before the agency.

(2) (a) Except as provided in 75-2-211, 75-2-213, and subsections (2)(c) and (2)(e) of this section, proceedings for review must be instituted by filing a petition in district court within 30 days after service of the final written decision of the agency or, if a rehearing is requested, within 30 days after the written decision is rendered. Except as otherwise provided by statute, subsection (2)(d), or subsection (2)(e), the petition must be filed in the district court for the county where the petitioner resides or has the petitioner's principal place of business or where the agency maintains its principal office. Copies of the petition must be promptly served upon the agency and all parties of record.

(b) The petition must include a concise statement of the facts upon which jurisdiction and venue are based, a statement of the manner in which the petitioner is aggrieved, and the ground or grounds specified in 2-4-704(2) upon which the petitioner contends to be entitled to relief. The petition must demand the relief to which the petitioner believes the petitioner is entitled, and the demand for relief may be in the alternative.

(c) If a petition for review is filed pursuant to 33-16-1012(2)(c), the workers' compensation court, rather than the district court, has jurisdiction and the provisions of this part apply to the workers' compensation court in the same manner as the provisions of this part apply to the district court.

(d) If a petition for review is filed challenging a licensing or permitting decision made pursuant to Title 75 or Title 82, the petition for review must be filed in the county where the facility is located or proposed to be located or where the action is proposed to occur.

(e) (i) A party who is aggrieved by a final decision on an application for a permit or change in appropriation right filed under Title 85, chapter 2, part 3, may petition the district court or the water court for judicial review of the decision. If a petition for judicial review is filed in the water court, the water court rather than the district court has jurisdiction and the provisions of this part apply to the water court in the same manner as they apply to the district court. The time for filing a petition is the same as provided in subsection (2)(a).

(ii) If more than one party is aggrieved by a final decision on an application for a permit or change in appropriation right filed under Title 85, chapter 2, part 3, the district court where the appropriation right is located has jurisdiction. If more than one aggrieved party files a petition but no aggrieved party files a petition in the district court where the appropriation right is located, the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County, has jurisdiction.

(iii) If a petition for judicial review is filed in the district court, the petition for review must be filed in the district court in the county where the appropriation right is located.

(3) Unless otherwise provided by statute, the filing of the petition may not stay enforcement of the agency's decision. The agency may grant or the reviewing court may order a stay upon terms that it considers proper, following notice to the affected parties and an opportunity for hearing. A stay may be issued without notice only if the provisions of 27-19-315 through 27-19-317 are met.

(4) Within 30 days after the service of the petition or within further time allowed by the court, the agency shall transmit to the reviewing court the original or a certified copy of the entire record of the proceeding under review. By stipulation of all parties to the review proceedings, the record may be shortened. A party unreasonably refusing to stipulate to limit the record may be required by the court to pay the additional costs. The court may require or permit subsequent corrections or additions to the record. *(Terminates September 30, 2025—sec. 6, Ch. 126, L. 2017.)*

2-4-702. *(Effective October 1, 2025)* **Initiating judicial review of contested cases.** (1) (a) Except as provided in 75-2-213 and 75-20-223, a person who has exhausted all administrative remedies available within the agency and who is aggrieved by a final written decision in a contested case is entitled to judicial review under this chapter. This section does not limit use of or the scope of judicial review available under other means of review, redress, relief, or trial de novo provided by statute.

(b) A party who proceeds before an agency under the terms of a particular statute may not be precluded from questioning the validity of that statute on judicial review, but the party may not raise any other question not raised before the agency unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that there was good cause for failure to raise the question before the agency.

(2) (a) Except as provided in 75-2-211, 75-2-213, and subsection (2)(c) of this section, proceedings for review must be instituted by filing a petition in district court within 30 days after service of the final written decision of the agency or, if a rehearing is requested, within 30 days after the written decision is rendered. Except as otherwise provided by statute or subsection (2)(d), the petition must be filed in the district court for the county where the petitioner resides or has the petitioner's principal place of business or where the agency maintains its principal office. Copies of the petition must be promptly served upon the agency and all parties of record.

(b) The petition must include a concise statement of the facts upon which jurisdiction and venue are based, a statement of the manner in which the petitioner is aggrieved, and the ground or grounds specified in 2-4-704(2) upon which the petitioner contends to be entitled to relief. The petition must demand the relief to which the petitioner believes the petitioner is entitled, and the demand for relief may be in the alternative.

(c) If a petition for review is filed pursuant to 33-16-1012(2)(c), the workers' compensation court, rather than the district court, has jurisdiction and the provisions of this part apply to the workers' compensation court in the same manner as the provisions of this part apply to the district court.

(d) If a petition for review is filed challenging a licensing or permitting decision made pursuant to Title 75 or Title 82, the petition for review must be filed in the county where the facility is located or proposed to be located or where the action is proposed to occur.

(3) Unless otherwise provided by statute, the filing of the petition may not stay enforcement of the agency's decision. The agency may grant or the reviewing court may order a stay upon terms that it considers proper, following notice to the affected parties and an opportunity for hearing. A stay may be issued without notice only if the provisions of 27-19-315 through 27-19-317 are met.

(4) Within 30 days after the service of the petition or within further time allowed by the court, the agency shall transmit to the reviewing court the original or a certified copy of the entire record of the proceeding under review. By stipulation of all parties to the review proceedings, the record may be shortened. A party unreasonably refusing to stipulate to limit the record may be required by the court to pay the additional costs. The court may require or permit subsequent corrections or additions to the record.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4216(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 520, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 347, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 445, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Licenses — delay of expiration, 2-4-631.
District Court appellate jurisdiction, 3-5-303.
Judicial review of decision of Montana Tax Appeal Board, 15-2-303.
Judicial review of decision of Public Employees' Retirement Board, 19-2-401.
Judicial review of decision of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 20-3-107.
Venue, Title 25, ch. 2.
Judicial review of department decision on health care facility certificate of need, 50-5-306.
Judicial review of decision of Board of Environmental Review or local control authority under Clean Air Act of Montana, 75-2-411.

2-4-703. Receipt of additional evidence. If, before the date set for hearing, application is made to the court for leave to present additional evidence and it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that the additional evidence is material and that there were good reasons for failure to present it in the proceeding before the agency, the court may order that the additional evidence be taken before the agency upon conditions determined by the court. The agency may modify its findings and decision by reason of the additional evidence and shall file that evidence and any modifications, new findings, or decisions with the reviewing court.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4216(5).

2-4-704. Standards of review. (1) The review must be conducted by the court without a jury and must be confined to the record. In cases of alleged irregularities in procedure before the agency not shown in the record, proof of the irregularities may be taken in the court. The court, upon request, shall hear oral argument and receive written briefs.

(2) The court may not substitute its judgment for that of the agency as to the weight of the evidence on questions of fact. The court may affirm the decision of the agency or remand the case for further proceedings. The court may reverse or modify the decision if substantial rights of the appellant have been prejudiced because:

(a) the administrative findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions are:
(i) in violation of constitutional or statutory provisions;
(ii) in excess of the statutory authority of the agency;
(iii) made upon unlawful procedure;
(iv) affected by other error of law;
(v) clearly erroneous in view of the reliable, probative, and substantial evidence on the whole record;
(vi) arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion; or
(b) findings of fact, upon issues essential to the decision, were not made although requested.

(3) If a petition for review is filed challenging a licensing or permitting decision made pursuant to Title 75 or Title 82 on the grounds of unconstitutionality, as provided in subsection (2)(a)(i), the petitioner shall first establish the unconstitutionality of the underlying statute.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4216(6), (7); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

2-4-705 through 2-4-710 reserved.

2-4-711. Appeals — staying agency decision. An aggrieved party may obtain review of a final judgment of a district court under this part by appeal to the supreme court within 60 days after entry of judgment. Such appeal shall be taken in the manner provided by law for appeals from district courts in civil cases. Unless otherwise provided by statute or unless the agency has granted a stay through the completion of the judicial review process:

(1) if appeal is taken from a judgment of the district court affirming an agency decision, the agency decision shall not be stayed except upon order of the supreme court; except that, in cases where a stay is in effect at the time of the filing of notice of appeal, the stay shall be continued by operation of law for 20 days from the date of filing of the notice;

(2) if appeal is taken from a judgment of the district court reversing or modifying an agency decision, the agency decision shall be stayed pending final determination of the appeal unless the supreme court orders otherwise.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4217.

CHAPTER 5
MONTANA NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING ACT

Part 1 — General Provisions

2-5-101. Short title.
2-5-102. Purpose.
2-5-103. Definitions.
2-5-104. Determination of need for negotiated rulemaking committee.
2-5-105. Application for membership on committees — publication of notice.
2-5-106. Establishment of committee — determination.
2-5-107. Expansion of committee membership.
2-5-108. Committee — duties — procedures — report.
2-5-109. Facilitator — selection and duties.
2-5-110. Expenses — convener — facilitator — committee members.

Chapter Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

Part 1
General Provisions

2-5-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Negotiated Rulemaking Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 400, L. 1993.

2-5-102. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to establish a framework for the conduct of negotiated rulemaking consistent with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act and the constitutional right of Montanans to participate in the operation of governmental agencies and to encourage agencies to use negotiated rulemaking when it enhances the rulemaking process. As authorized by 2-4-304, it is the intent of the legislature that state agencies, whenever appropriate, use the negotiated rulemaking process to resolve controversial issues prior to the commencement of the formal rulemaking process. However, negotiated rulemaking is not a substitute for the public notification and participation requirements of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, and a consensus agreement by a negotiated rulemaking committee may be modified by an agency as a result of the subsequent rulemaking process. This part may not be construed as an attempt to limit innovation and experimentation with the negotiated rulemaking process.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 400, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Informal conferences and committees, 2-4-304.

2-5-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" means any board, bureau, commission, department, authority, or officer of the executive branch of state government authorized or required by law to make rules.

(2) "Consensus" means unanimous concurrence among the interests represented on a negotiated rulemaking committee established under 2-5-106 unless the committee agrees upon another specified definition.

(3) "Convener" means a person who impartially assists an agency in determining whether establishment of a negotiated rulemaking committee is feasible and appropriate for a particular rulemaking procedure.

(4) "Facilitator" means a person who impartially aids in the discussions and negotiations among the members of a negotiated rulemaking committee to develop a proposed rule. A facilitator does not have decisionmaking authority.

(5) "Interest" means, with respect to an issue or matter, multiple parties that have a similar point of view or that are likely to be affected in a similar manner.

(6) "Negotiated rulemaking" means rulemaking through the use of a negotiated rulemaking committee.

(7) "Negotiated rulemaking committee" or "committee" means an advisory committee established under 2-5-106 and authorized under 2-4-304 to consider and discuss issues for the purpose of reaching a consensus in the development of a proposed rule.

(8) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, governmental subdivision, agency, or public or private organization of any character.

(9) "Rule" means an agency regulation, standard, or statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy or describes the organization, procedures, or practice requirements of an agency. The term includes the amendment or repeal of a prior rule but does not include:

(a) statements concerning only the internal management of an agency and not affecting private rights or procedures available to the public;

(b) formal opinions of the attorney general and declaratory rulings issued pursuant to 2-4-501;

(c) rules relating to the use of public works, facilities, streets, and highways when the substance of the rules is indicated to the public by means of signs or signals;

(d) rules implementing the state personnel classification plan, the state wage and salary plan, or the statewide accounting, budgeting, and human resource system;

(e) uniform rules adopted pursuant to an interstate compact, except that the rules must be filed in accordance with 2-4-306 and must be published in the Administrative Rules of Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 400, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 2, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Informal conferences and committees, 2-4-304.
Declaratory rulings by agencies, 2-4-501.

2-5-104. Determination of need for negotiated rulemaking committee. (1) An agency may establish a negotiated rulemaking committee to negotiate and develop a proposed rule if the agency director determines that the use of the negotiated rulemaking procedure is in the public interest. In making that determination, the agency director shall consider whether:

(a) there is a need for a rule;

(b) there are a limited number of identifiable interests that will be significantly affected by the rule;

(c) there is a reasonable likelihood that a committee can be convened with a balanced representation of persons who:

(i) can adequately represent the interests identified under subsection (1)(b); and

(ii) are willing to negotiate in good faith to reach a consensus on the proposed rule;

(d) there is a reasonable likelihood that a committee will reach a consensus on the proposed rule within a fixed period of time;

(e) the negotiated rulemaking procedure will not unreasonably delay the notice of proposed rulemaking and the issuance of the final rule;

(f) the agency has adequate resources and is willing to commit those resources, including technical assistance, to the committee; and

(g) the agency, to the maximum extent possible consistent with the legal obligations of the agency, will use the consensus of the committee as the basis for the rule proposed by the agency.

(2) An agency may use the services of a convener to assist in making the determination of need pursuant to subsection (1) and to assist the agency in:

(a) identifying persons who will be significantly affected by a proposed rule; and

(b) conducting discussions with affected persons on the issues of concern and ascertaining whether the establishment of a negotiated rulemaking committee is feasible and appropriate for the particular rulemaking procedure.

(3) The convener shall report findings and make recommendations to the agency. Upon request of the agency, the convener shall ascertain the names of persons who are willing and qualified to represent the interests that will be significantly affected by the proposed rule. The report and any recommendations of the convener must be made available to the public upon request.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 400, L. 1993.

2-5-105. Application for membership on committees — publication of notice. (1) If an agency decides to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee, the agency shall publish in the Montana Administrative Register and, as appropriate, in newspapers and other publications, a notice that includes:

(a) an announcement that the agency intends to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee to negotiate and develop a proposed rule;

(b) a description of the subject and scope of the rule to be developed and the issues to be considered;

(c) a list of interests likely to be significantly affected by the proposed rule;

(d) a list of the persons proposed to represent the affected interests and the agency;

(e) a proposed schedule for completing the work of the committee; and

(f) an explanation of how a person may apply for or nominate another person for membership on the committee.

(2) An agency may include the notice required in subsection (1) in the notice of intent to promulgate rules made pursuant to 2-4-302.

(3) The agency shall provide a period of at least 30 days for the submission of comments and applications for membership on a negotiated rulemaking committee.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 400, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Notice, hearing, and submission of views, 2-4-302.

2-5-106. Establishment of committee — determination. (1) If, after considering comments and applications submitted under 2-5-105, the agency determines that a negotiated rulemaking committee can adequately represent the interests of the persons that will be significantly affected by a proposed rule and that it is feasible and appropriate in the particular rulemaking, the agency may establish a negotiated rulemaking committee.

(2) If, after considering comments and applications submitted under 2-5-105, the agency decides not to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee, the agency shall notify the persons who commented on or applied for membership on the negotiated rulemaking committee of the reasons for the decision. The agency shall also publish a notice in the Montana Administrative Register and, as appropriate, in newspapers and other publications.

(3) The agency shall provide appropriate administrative support to the negotiated rulemaking committee, including technical support.

(4) A negotiated rulemaking committee terminates upon adoption of the final rule under consideration, unless the agency, after consulting the committee, or the committee itself specifies an earlier termination date.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 400, L. 1993.**

2-5-107. Expansion of committee membership. (1) A negotiated rulemaking committee may by consensus expand its membership, either by contacting and recruiting persons whose participation the committee believes is essential to the success of the negotiated rulemaking process or upon reviewing a petition submitted pursuant to subsection (2).

(2) Persons who will be significantly affected by a proposed rule and who believe that their interests will not be adequately represented by any person on a negotiated rulemaking committee may petition for or nominate another person for membership on the negotiated rulemaking committee. Each petition or nomination must be submitted to the negotiated rulemaking committee and must include:

(a) the name of the petitioner or nominee and a description of the interests the person represents;

(b) evidence that the petitioner or nominee is authorized to represent parties related to the interests the person proposes to represent;

(c) a written commitment that the petitioner or nominee will actively participate in good faith in the development of the rule under consideration; and

(d) an explanation of reasons that the persons already on the negotiated rulemaking committee do not adequately represent the interests of the person submitting the petition or nomination.

(3) Upon receiving a petition pursuant to subsection (2), a negotiated rulemaking committee shall decide by consensus at its next meeting whether or not to expand its membership.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 400, L. 1993.**

2-5-108. Committee — duties — procedures — report. (1) A negotiated rulemaking committee shall consider the matter proposed by the agency for consideration and shall attempt to reach consensus concerning a proposed rule and any other matter the committee determines is relevant to the proposed rule.

(2) The person representing the agency on a negotiated rulemaking committee shall participate in the deliberations of the committee with the same rights and responsibilities of other members of the committee and is authorized to fully represent the agency in the discussions and negotiations of the committee.

(3) A negotiated rulemaking committee may adopt procedures or ground rules for the operation of the committee.

(4) If a negotiated rulemaking committee achieves consensus on a proposed rule, at the conclusion of the negotiations, the committee shall transmit to the agency that established the committee a report containing the proposed rule.

(5) If a negotiated rulemaking committee does not reach a consensus on the proposed rule, the committee shall transmit to the agency a report specifying areas in which the committee reached consensus and the issues that remain unresolved. The committee may include in the report any other information, recommendations, or materials that the committee considers appropriate. Any member of the committee may include as an addendum to the report additional information, recommendations, or materials.

(6) Title 2, chapter 3, part 2, applies to meetings of a negotiated rulemaking committee.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 400, L. 1993.**

2-5-109. Facilitator — selection and duties. (1) An agency may nominate a person to serve as a facilitator for the negotiations of the committee, subject to the approval of the committee by consensus. If the committee does not approve the agency's nomination for facilitator, the agency shall submit a substitute nomination. If a committee does not approve the substitute nomination of the agency for facilitator, the committee shall select by consensus a person to serve as facilitator. A person designated to represent the agency in substantive issues may not serve as facilitator or presiding officer for the committee.

(2) A facilitator approved or selected by a committee shall:
(a) preside at the meetings of the committee in an impartial manner;
(b) impartially assist the members of the committee in conducting discussions and negotiations and achieving consensus; and
(c) manage the keeping of minutes and records.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 400, L. 1993.

2-5-110. Expenses — convener — facilitator — committee members. (1) An agency may employ or enter into a contract for the services of an organization or individual to serve as a convener or facilitator for a negotiated rulemaking committee or may use the services of a government employee to act as a convener or facilitator for a committee.

(2) An agency shall determine whether a person under consideration as a convener or facilitator of a negotiated rulemaking committee has any financial or other interest that would preclude the person from serving in an impartial and independent manner. A person disqualified under this criterion must be dropped from further consideration.

(3) Members of a negotiated rulemaking committee are responsible for their own expenses of participation. However, an agency may pay for a committee member's reasonable travel and per diem expenses, expenses to obtain technical assistance, and a reasonable rate of compensation if:
(a) the committee member certifies a lack of adequate financial resources to participate in the committee; and
(b) the agency determines that the committee member's participation in the committee is necessary to ensure an adequate representation of the interests of the members.

(4) An agency may accept grants or gifts from any source to fund the negotiated rulemaking process, provided that:
(a) information on the name of the person giving the grant or gift and the amount of the grant or gift is available to the public;
(b) the grant or gift is given to and accepted by the agency without placing any condition on the membership of a negotiated rulemaking committee or the outcome of the negotiated rulemaking process; and
(c) there is consensus among the members of the negotiated rulemaking committee established pursuant to 2-5-106 that the acceptance of the grant or gift will not diminish the integrity of the negotiated rulemaking process.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 400, L. 1993.

CHAPTER 6
PUBLIC RECORDS

Part 1 — Public Records Generally (Repealed)

Part 2 — Public Records Management (Repealed)

Part 3 — Records of Elected Executive Branch Officers (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 4 — Local Government Records (Repealed)

Part 5 — Agency Protection of Personal Information (Repealed)

Parts 6 through 9 reserved

Part 10 — General Provisions

2-6-1001. Purpose.
2-6-1002. Definitions.
2-6-1003. Access to public information — safety and security exceptions — Montana historical society exception.
2-6-1004 and 2-6-1005 reserved.
2-6-1006. Public information requests — fees.
2-6-1007. Special fees allowable for certain information.
2-6-1008. Certified copies of records — historic records and constitutional officer records — exception.
2-6-1009. Written notice of denial — failure to meet response deadline — civil action — costs to prevailing party in certain actions to enforce constitutional or statutory rights.
2-6-1010 and 2-6-1011 reserved.
2-6-1012. Management of public records — disposal and destruction.
2-6-1013. Preservation of public records — possession of public records.

2-6-1014. Protection and storage of essential records.
2-6-1015 and 2-6-1016 reserved.
2-6-1017. Prohibition on dissemination or use of distribution lists — exceptions — penalties.
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2-6-1020. Concealment of public hazards prohibited — concealment of information related to settlement or resolution of civil suits prohibited.
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2-6-1031. Definitions.
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Part 11 — Executive Branch Records

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2-6-1107. State records committee — composition and meetings.
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2-6-1112. Historic records — Montana historical society — powers and duties.
2-6-1113. Constitutional officer records — Montana historical society.
2-6-1114. Permanent records — agency responsibilities — state records center.

Part 12 — Local Government Records

2-6-1201. Local government records committee — composition and meetings.
2-6-1202. Local government records committee — duties and responsibilities.
2-6-1203 and 2-6-1204 reserved.
2-6-1205. Disposal of local government public records prohibited prior to offering — central registry — notification.

Parts 13 and 14 reserved

Part 15 — State Agency Protection of Personal Information

2-6-1501. Definitions.
2-6-1502. Protection of personal information — compliance — extensions.
2-6-1503. Notification of breach of security of data system.
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Part 1
Public Records Generally
(Repealed)

2-6-101. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Secs. 3170, 3171, 3172, 3182, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Secs. 7895, 7896, 7897, 7900, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 10539, 10540, 10541, 10544, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Secs. 1887, 1888, 1889, 1894; re-en. Secs. 10539, 10540, 10541, 10544, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1001-1, 93-1001-2, 93-1001-3, 93-1001-6; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 476, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 748, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 485, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 77, L. 2001.

2-6-102. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Secs. 3180, 3181, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Secs. 7898, 7899, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 10542, 10543, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Secs. 1892, 1893; re-en. Secs. 10542, 10543, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1001-4, 93-1001-5; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 476, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 748, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 485, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 77, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 364, L. 2013.

2-6-103. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 410, Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, p. 47, L. 1899; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 1903; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 165, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 145, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 416; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 50, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 145, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 141, Ch. 300, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 185, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 25-102; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 429, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 254, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 411, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 406, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 396, L. 2001.

2-6-104. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1136, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 438, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 455, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 1032; re-en. Sec. 455, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 59-512(part); amd. Sec. 157, Ch. 480, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 485, L. 1999.

2-6-105. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3240, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7953, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10597, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1950; re-en. Sec. 10597, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1101-20(part).

2-6-106. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1120, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 427, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 460, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 1014; re-en. Sec. 460, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-530; Sec. 2-6-303(1), MCA 1979; redes. 2-6-106 by Code Commissioner, 1979; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-6-107. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1121, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 428, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 461, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 1015; re-en. Sec. 461, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-531; Sec. 2-6-305, MCA 1979; redes. 2-6-107 by Code Commissioner, 1979.

2-6-108. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1122, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 429, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 462, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 1016; re-en. Sec. 462, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-532; Sec. 2-6-306, MCA 1979; redes. 2-6-108 by Code Commissioner, 1979; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-6-109. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 606, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 683, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 663, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 289, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 364, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 370, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 126, Ch. 305, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 363, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 441, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 125, L. 2009.

2-6-110. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 640, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 4, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 484, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 405, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 77, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 396, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 2011.

2-6-111. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 400, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 153, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 133, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 407; re-en. Sec. 133, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-2201; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 467, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-6-112. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 2005.

Part 2
Public Records Management
(Repealed)

2-6-201. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 82-3333 by Sec. 2, Ch. 339, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3333; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 420, L. 1993.

2-6-202. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: (1)En. 82-3334 by Sec. 3, Ch. 339, L. 1977; Sec. 82-3334, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3334(1); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 77, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 2003.

2-6-203. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: (1)En. 82-3335 by Sec. 4, Ch. 339, L. 1977; Sec. 82-3335, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 82-3337 by Sec. 6, Ch. 339, L. 1977; Sec. 82-3337, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3335, 82-3337; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 2011.

2-6-204. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 82-3338 by Sec. 7, Ch. 339, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3338(3).

2-6-205. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 82-3334 by Sec. 3, Ch. 339, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3334(2).

2-6-206. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 82-3341 by Sec. 10, Ch. 339, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3341; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 378, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 30, L. 2003.

2-6-207. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1979.

2-6-208. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 82-3338, by Sec. 7, Ch. 339, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3338(1), (2), (4); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 378, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 170, L. 2011; Sec. 2-15-1013, MCA 2009; redes. 2-6-208 by Sec. 3, Ch. 170, L. 2011.

2-6-209 and 2-6-210 reserved.

2-6-211. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 82-3340 by Sec. 9, Ch. 339, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3340; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 378, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 6, Sp. L. January 1992; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 30, L. 2003.

2-6-212. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 82-3339 by Sec. 8, Ch. 339, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3339; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1981.

2-6-213. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 82-3336 by Sec. 5, Ch. 339, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3336; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 378, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 30, L. 2003.

2-6-214. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 378, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

Part 3
Records of Elected Executive Branch Officers (Renumbered and Repealed)

2-6-301. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 59-530.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-530.1; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 77, L. 2001.

2-6-302. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 59-530.3 by Sec. 3, Ch. 441, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-530.3; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 378, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 420, L. 1993.

2-6-303. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: (1)En. 59-530.2 by Sec. 2, Ch. 441, L. 1977; Sec. 59-530.2, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 102, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-6-304. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. 59-530.4 by Sec. 4, Ch. 441, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-530.4; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 378, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-6-305. Renumbered 2-6-107. Code Commissioner, 1979.

2-6-306. Renumbered 2-6-108. Code Commissioner, 1979.

2-6-307. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 102, L. 1979.

Part 4
Local Government Records (Repealed)

2-6-401. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 420, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 77, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 30, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 2003.

2-6-402. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 420, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 302, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-6-403. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 420, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 323, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-6-404. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 420, L. 1993.

2-6-405. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 302, L. 2001.

Part 5
Agency Protection of Personal Information (Repealed)

2-6-501. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 2009.

2-6-502. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2009.

2-6-503. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 2009.

2-6-504. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 2015.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 2009.

Parts 6 through 9 reserved

Part 10
General Provisions

Part Cross-References
Public records — property of state, 2-6-1013.
Reporting to Legislative Finance Committee, 5-12-209.

2-6-1001. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to ensure efficient and effective management of public records and public information, in accordance with Article II, sections 8 through 10, of the Montana constitution, for the state of Montana and its political subdivisions.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1002. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Confidential information" means information that is accorded confidential status or is prohibited from disclosure as provided by applicable law. The term includes information that is:

(a) constitutionally protected from disclosure because an individual privacy interest clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure;

(b) related to judicial deliberations in adversarial proceedings;

(c) necessary to maintain the security and integrity of secure facilities or information systems owned by or serving the state; and

(d) designated as confidential by statute or through judicial decisions, findings, or orders.

(2) "Constitutional officer" means the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction, or auditor, who are the constitutionally designated and elected officials of the executive branch of government.

(3) "Constitutional officer record" means a public record prepared, owned, used, or retained by a constitutional officer.

(4) "Essential record" means a public record immediately necessary to:

(a) respond to an emergency or disaster;

(b) begin recovery or reestablishment of operations during and after an emergency or disaster;

(c) protect the health, safety, and property of Montana citizens; or

(d) protect the assets, obligations, rights, history, and resources of a public agency, its employees and customers, and Montana citizens.

(5) "Executive branch agency" means a department, board, commission, office, bureau, or other public authority of the executive branch of state government.

(6) "Historic record" means a public record found by the state archivist to have permanent administrative or historic value to the state.

(7) "Local government" means a city, town, county, consolidated city-county, special district, or school district or a subdivision of one of these entities.

(8) "Local government records committee" means the committee provided for in 2-6-1201.

(9) "Permanent record" means a public record designated for long-term or permanent retention.

(10) "Public agency" means the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of Montana state government, a political subdivision of the state, a local government, and any agency, department, board, commission, office, bureau, division, or other public authority of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the state of Montana.

(11) "Public information" means information prepared, owned, used, or retained by any public agency relating to the transaction of official business, regardless of form, except for confidential information that must be protected against public disclosure under applicable law.

(12) "Public officer" means any person who has been elected or appointed as an officer of state or local government.

(13) "Public record" means public information that is:

(a) fixed in any medium and is retrievable in usable form for future reference; and

(b) designated for retention by the state records committee, judicial branch, legislative branch, or local government records committee.

(14) "Records manager" means an individual designated by a public agency to be responsible for coordinating the efficient and effective management of the agency's public records and information.

(15) "State records committee" means the state records committee provided for in 2-6-1107.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1003. Access to public information — safety and security exceptions — Montana historical society exception. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), every person has a right to examine and obtain a copy of any public information of this state.

(2) A public officer may withhold from public scrutiny information relating to individual or public safety or the security of public facilities, including public schools, jails, correctional facilities, private correctional facilities, and prisons, if release of the information jeopardizes the safety of facility personnel, the public, students in a public school, or inmates of a facility. A public officer may not withhold from public scrutiny any more information than is required to protect individual or public safety or the security of public facilities.

(3) The Montana historical society may honor restrictions imposed by private record donors as long as the restrictions do not apply to public information. All restrictions must expire no later than 50 years from the date the private record was received. Upon the expiration of the restriction, the private records must be made accessible to the public.

(4) A public agency may not refuse to disclose public information because the requested public information is part of litigation or may be part of litigation unless the information is protected from disclosure under another applicable law.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 775, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 775, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Minutes of meetings — available subject to right of individual privacy, 2-3-212.
Settlement of claim against government — governmental portion open to public inspection, 2-9-303, 2-9-304.
Office hours, 2-16-117.
Election materials not public until canvassed, 13-15-301.
Ownership of public obligations — no inspection, 17-5-1106.
Records of Medical Legal Panel confidential, 27-6-703.
Attachment — filing not public until writ returned, 27-18-111.

2-6-1004 and 2-6-1005 reserved.

2-6-1006. Public information requests — fees. (1) (a) A person may request public information from a public agency. A public agency shall make the means of requesting public information accessible to all persons.

(b) (i) All public agencies are governed by this subsection (1).

(ii) A public agency that is not an executive branch agency must meet the requirements of subsection (2) when responding to a public information request.

(iii) (A) Except as provided in subsections (1)(b)(iii)(B) and (1)(b)(iv), all executive branch agencies must meet the requirements of subsection (3) when responding to a public information request.

(B) The provisions of subsection (3) apply to the secretary of state, the justice department, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state auditor beginning on October 1, 2025.

(iv) The secretary of state must meet the requirements of subsection (4) regarding fees.

(c) A public agency other than the office of the secretary of state may charge, pursuant to this subsection (1)(c), a fee for fulfilling a public information request. Except where a fee is otherwise provided for by law, the fee may not exceed the actual costs directly incident to fulfilling the request in the most cost-efficient and timely manner possible. The fee must be documented. The fee may include the time required to gather public information. The public agency may require the requesting person to pay the estimated fee prior to identifying and gathering the requested public information.

(d) A public agency is not required to alter or customize public information to provide it in a form specified to meet the needs of the requesting person.

(e) If a public agency agrees to a request to customize a records request response, the costs of the customization may be included in the fees charged by the agency.

(2) Upon receiving a request for public information, a public agency that is not an executive branch agency shall respond in a timely manner to the requesting person by:

(a) making the public information maintained by the public agency available for inspection and copying by the requesting person; or

(b) providing the requesting person with an estimate of the time it will take to fulfill the request if the public information cannot be readily identified and gathered and any fees that may be charged pursuant to subsection (1)(c).

(3) (a) An executive branch agency shall respond to a public information request by acknowledging receipt of the request within 5 business days of the agency's designated contact person receiving the request. Except for confidential, privileged, or otherwise protected information that is not subject to public disclosure under applicable law and information withheld from public scrutiny as provided in 2-6-1003, the executive branch agency shall respond by:

(i) making the public information maintained by the executive branch agency available in a timely manner for inspection and copying by the requesting person;

(ii) providing a specified public record to the requesting person within 5 working days of the executive branch agency's acknowledgment of receipt of the request if the request is for a single, specific, clearly identifiable, and readily available public record. This subsection (3)(a)(ii) does not apply to requests pertaining only to a specified person or property, including requests for applications, vital records, licenses, permits, or registrations; or

(iii) responding as provided in subsection (3)(b).

(b) (i) If a request seeks public information that cannot be readily identified and gathered, the agency shall provide the requesting person an estimate of the time it will take to fulfill the request and any fees that may be charged pursuant to subsection (1)(c) and shall provide the public information to the requesting person in a timely manner, which may be, except as provided in subsection (3)(b)(ii), within:

(A) 90 days of the public agency's acknowledgment of the request; or

(B) 6 months of the public agency's acknowledgment of the request if the agency determines 90 days is not feasible for a response and the agency provides the requesting person written notice explaining why the agency is unable to provide a response within 90 days.

(ii) If an executive branch agency requires a requesting person to pay an estimated fee pursuant to subsection (1)(c), the agency's obligation to respond to the request is suspended upon sending the estimate to the requesting person and remains suspended until the requesting person makes payment.

(c) An executive branch agency may request additional information or clarification from a requesting person for the purpose of expediting the agency's response to the request. If the agency has requested additional information or clarification, the agency's obligation to respond to the request is suspended until the requesting person provides the requested information or clarification or until the requesting person denies the agency's request for additional information or clarification. If a person requesting public information fails to respond within 30 days to an agency's request for additional information or clarification, the agency may close the request after notifying the requesting person.

(d) Each executive branch agency must have a designated contact for public information requests posted on its website.

(e) By November 1, 2024, or 1 month after this section becomes applicable to an executive branch agency, whichever occurs second, an executive branch agency that is subject to this subsection (3) shall:

(i) establish a public information request process describing the steps for submitting a request and the process the agency will follow when responding to a request for public information, which must be published on a state website;

(ii) provide statistics about public information requests received by the designated contact of the agency, including the number of requests and the agency's response time to fulfill or otherwise resolve the requests; and

(iii) retain and publish on a state website the public information requests the agency has received and the agency's response. The agency is not required to publish requests or responses if the request:

(A) was not submitted according to the agency's posted process;

(B) pertains only to a specific person or property, including requests for applications, vital records, licenses, permits, registrations, and related supporting documents; or

(C) was for information accessible on a state website or other publication available at the time the request was made.

(4) (a) The secretary of state is authorized to charge fees under this section. The fees must be set and deposited in accordance with 2-15-405. The fees must be collected in advance.

(b) The secretary of state may not charge a fee to a member of the legislature or public officer for any search relative to matters pertaining to the duties of the member's office or for a certified copy of any law or resolution passed by the legislature relative to the member's official duties.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

2-6-1007. Special fees allowable for certain information. (1) In addition to the fee allowed under 2-6-1006, the department of revenue may charge an additional fee as reimbursement for the cost of developing and maintaining the property valuation and assessment system database from which the information is requested. The fee must be charged to persons, federal agencies, state agencies, and other entities requesting the database or any part of the database from any department property valuation and assessment system. The fee may not be charged to the governor's office of budget and program planning, the Montana tax appeal board, or any legislative body or its members or staff.

(2) The department of revenue may not charge a fee for information provided from any department property valuation and assessment system database to a local taxing jurisdiction for use in taxation and other governmental functions or to an individual taxpayer concerning the taxpayer's property.

(3) All fees received by the department of revenue under 2-6-1006 and this section must be deposited in the property value improvement fund as provided in 15-1-521.

(4) In accordance with the fees allowed under 2-6-1006, the Montana historical society may charge fees as approved by its board of trustees for copies of materials contained in its collections, based on documentable curatorial duties as set forth in 22-3-101.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

2-6-1008. Certified copies of records — historic records and constitutional officer records — exception. (1) A person may request a certified copy of a public record from a public agency subject to the provisions of 2-6-1003. The public agency may charge a fee for the certified copy in accordance with 2-6-1006.

(2) A person may request a certified copy of a historic record or a constitutional officer record from the Montana historical society subject to the provisions of 2-6-1003. The Montana historical society may charge a fee for the certified copy in accordance with 2-6-1006 and 2-6-1007(4).

(3) A certified copy created by the Montana historical society of a historic record or a constitutional officer record has the same force in law as if made by the original public agency that created the record.

(4) Pursuant to 2-15-403, this section does not apply to certified copies provided by the secretary of state for information contained in the secretary of state's corporate and uniform commercial code electronic filing system.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1009. Written notice of denial — failure to meet response deadline — civil action — costs to prevailing party in certain actions to enforce constitutional or statutory rights. (1) A public agency that denies an information request to release information or records shall provide a written explanation for the denial.

(2) If a person who makes an information request receives a denial from a public agency and believes that the denial violates the provisions of this chapter, the person may file a complaint pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure in district court.

(3) If a person who makes an information request to an executive branch agency does not receive a response from the agency as required in 2-6-1006(3), the person may file a complaint in district court.

(4) A person alleging a deprivation of rights who prevails in an action brought in district court to enforce the person's rights under Article II, section 9, of the Montana constitution or under the provisions of Title 2, chapter 6, parts 10 through 12, may be awarded costs and reasonable attorney fees.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-6-1010 and 2-6-1011 reserved.

2-6-1012. Management of public records — disposal and destruction. (1) (a) Each public officer is responsible for properly managing the public records within the public officer's possession or control through an established records management plan that satisfies the requirements of this chapter.

(b) Executive branch agencies shall manage public records according to the provisions of Title 2, chapter 6, part 11, and the rules and guidelines established by the secretary of state, the state records committee, and the Montana historical society.

(c) Local governments shall manage public records according to the provisions of Title 2, chapter 6, part 12, and the rules and guidelines established by the secretary of state, the local government records committee, and the Montana historical society.

(d) Pursuant to 5-2-503 and 5-11-105, the legislative council shall administer the records management plan for the legislative branch. The legislative branch shall cooperate with the secretary of state, the state records committee, the local government records committee, and the Montana historical society in the development, implementation, and administration of the legislative records management plan using Title 2, chapter 6, part 11, as guidance.

(e) The judicial branch shall establish a records management plan. The judicial branch may seek assistance from the secretary of state, the state records committee, the local government records committee, and the Montana historical society regarding development, implementation, and administration of the judicial records management plan.

(2) When a public record has reached the end of its retention period, the public officer shall ensure the record is disposed of, destroyed, or transferred according to the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1013. Preservation of public records — possession of public records. (1) All public records are and remain the property of the public agency possessing the records. The public records must be delivered by outgoing public officers and employees to their successors and must be preserved, stored, transferred, destroyed, or disposed of and otherwise managed only in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) If an outgoing public officer or employee refuses or fails to deliver to the current public officer or employee any public records that pertain to that public office, the current public officer or employee may file a complaint in the district court of the county where the outgoing public officer or employee resides, pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, to compel the outgoing public officer or employee to deliver any public records still in the outgoing public officer or employee's possession to the current public officer or employee.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1014. Protection and storage of essential records. (1) To provide for the continuity and preservation of civil government, each public officer shall designate certain public records as essential records. The list must be continually maintained by the public officers to ensure its accuracy. Each public officer shall collaborate with the appropriate continuity of government programs to ensure essential records are identified and maintained.

(2) Each public officer shall ensure essential records are efficiently and effectively secured. Each public officer shall look to the guidance provided by the state records committee or the local government records committee in choosing appropriate methods to protect, store, back up, and recover essential records.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Custody and preservation of records by Secretary of State, 2-15-406.

Preservation of records — state archives, Title 22, ch. 3, part 2.

2-6-1015 and 2-6-1016 reserved.

2-6-1017. Prohibition on dissemination or use of distribution lists — exceptions — penalties. (1) Except as provided in subsections (3) through (10), to protect the privacy of those who deal with state and local government:

(a) a public agency may not distribute or sell a distribution list without first securing the permission of those on the list; and

(b) a list of persons prepared by a public agency may not be used as a distribution list except by the public agency or another public agency without first securing the permission of those on the list.

(2) As used in this section, “distribution list” means any list of personal contact information collected by a public agency and used to facilitate unsolicited contact with individuals on the distribution list.

(3) This section does not prevent an individual from compiling a distribution list by examination of records that are otherwise open to public inspection.

(4) This section does not apply to the lists of:

(a) registered electors and the new voter lists provided for in 13-2-115;

(b) the names of employees governed by Title 39, chapter 31;

(c) persons holding driver’s licenses or Montana identification cards provided for under 61-5-127;

(d) persons holding professional or occupational licenses governed by Title 37, chapters 1 through 4, 6 through 20, 22 through 29, 31, 34 through 36, 40, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, 60, 65 through 69, 72, and 73, and Title 50, chapters 39, 72, 74, and 76;

(e) persons who own property in a county water and/or sewer district provided for in 7-13-2275(4)(d); or

(f) persons certified as claims examiners under 39-71-320.

(5) This section does not prevent an agency from providing a list to persons providing prelicensing or continuing education courses subject to state law or subject to Title 33, chapter 17.

(6) This section does not apply to the right of access by Montana law enforcement agencies.

(7) This section does not apply to the secretary of state’s electronic filing system developed pursuant to 2-15-404 and containing corporate and uniform commercial code information.

(8) This section does not apply to the use by the public employees’ retirement board of a list of board-administered retirement system participants to send materials on behalf of a retiree organization formed for board-administered retirement system participants and with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, for a fee determined by rules of the board, provided that the list is not released to the organization.

(9) This section does not apply to lists of individuals who sign attendance sheets or sign-in sheets at a hearing or meeting of a public agency.

(10) This section does not apply to a public school providing lists of graduating students to representatives of the armed forces of the United States or to the national guard for the purposes of recruitment.

(11) A person violating the provisions of subsection (1)(b) is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 457, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

2-6-1018 and 2-6-1019 reserved.

2-6-1020. Concealment of public hazards prohibited — concealment of information related to settlement or resolution of civil suits prohibited. (1) This section may be cited as the "Gus Barber Antisecrecy Act".

(2) As used in this section, "public hazard" means a device, instrument, or manufactured product or a condition of a device, instrument, or manufactured product that endangers public safety or health and has caused injury, as defined in 27-1-106.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a court may not enter a final order or judgment that has the purpose or effect of concealing a public hazard.

(4) Any portion of a final order or judgment entered or a written final settlement agreement entered into that has the purpose or effect of concealing a public hazard is contrary to public policy, is void, and may not be enforced. This section does not prohibit the parties from keeping the monetary amount of a written final settlement agreement confidential.

(5) A party to civil litigation may not request, as a condition to the production of discovery, that another party stipulate to an order that would violate this section.

(6) This section does not apply to:

(a) trade secrets, as defined in 30-14-402, that are not pertinent to public hazards and that are protected pursuant to Title 30, chapter 14, part 4;

(b) other information that is confidential under state or federal law; or

(c) a health care provider, as defined in 27-6-103.

(7) Any affected person, including but not limited to a representative of the news media, has standing to contest a final order or judgment or written final settlement agreement that violates this section by motion in the court in which the case was filed.

(8) The court shall examine the disputed information or materials in camera. If the court finds that the information or materials or portions of the information or materials consist of information concerning a public hazard, the court shall allow disclosure of the information or materials. If allowing disclosure, the court shall allow disclosure of only that portion of the information or materials necessary or useful to the public concerning the public hazard.

(9) This section does not apply to a protective order issued under Rule 26(c) of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure or to any materials produced under the order. Materials used as exhibits may be publicly disclosed pursuant to the provisions of subsections (7) and (8).

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1021 through 2-6-1029 reserved.

2-6-1030. Short title. Sections 2-6-1030 through 2-6-1033 may be cited as the "State's Settlement of Claims Sunshine and Transparency Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 511, L. 2021.

2-6-1031. Definitions. As used in 2-6-1030 through 2-6-1033, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Claim" means any claim against a governmental entity for $10,000 or more in monetary compensation, including but not limited to employment-related claims and tort claims.

(b) The term does not include benefits disputes under Title 39, chapter 51 or 71.

(2) "Department" means the department of administration provided for in 2-15-1001.

(3) "Employee" has the meaning provided in 2-9-101. The term includes a permanent employee, short-term worker, student intern, seasonal employee, personal staff, and temporary employee as those terms are defined in 2-18-101.

(4) "Monetary compensation" includes money and anything of financial value that is used by a governmental entity to resolve a claim, including but not limited to paid administrative leave and reinstatement or rehiring of a terminated employee.

(5) "Nondisclosure agreement" means any kind of contract or agreement requiring the parties to maintain confidentiality of any information related to a settlement with the state or compromise or settlement agreements with the state.

(6) "Settlement" means a binding legal agreement between the state or its agencies, departments, or other state entities and a party who accepts monetary compensation in return for releasing claims against the state or its entities.

(7) "State" and "governmental entity" means the state of Montana or any office, department, agency, authority, commission, board, institution, hospital, college, or university of the state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 511, L. 2021.

2-6-1032. Requirements for compromise and settlement of claims against state. (1) The department shall create, monitor, maintain, and update, on an ongoing basis, a website that is available to the public and publishes the following information:

(a) the names of the parties settling claims with the state unless the right to individual privacy outweighs the public right to know;

(b) the date of each compromise or settlement of a claim against the state that results in monetary compensation;

(c) the identity of the entity of the state where the claim originated;

(d) the amount of monetary compensation contained in the compromise or settlement; and

(e) a brief description of the alleged conduct, acts, or omissions by one or more employees, officers, or agents of the state at issue in the case.

(2) If a member of the public requests a paper copy of information on the website or a paper copy of the quarterly report as provided in 2-6-1033, the department shall charge a fee for paper copies that is commensurate with the cost of printing.

(3) All information regarding the compromise or settlement of a claim involving a minor is exempted from disclosure under subsection (1).

(4) The information identified in subsection (1) must be published within 60 days of the date the compromise or settlement occurred.

(5) (a) Nondisclosure agreements are disfavored in compromise or settlement agreements when the state is a party and may be utilized only in the rare instance in which the right to individual privacy outweighs the public right to know.

(b) Nondisclosure agreements may not exempt the state from its reporting obligations in subsections (1)(b) through (1)(e), except in the rare instance in which:

(i) disclosure of information required to be reported by subsection (1)(c) or (1)(e) would lead to a violation of an individual's right to privacy; and

(ii) the right to privacy arising as a result of the claim outweighs the public right to know.

(c) No privacy interest may overcome the public right to know with respect to the duty to report the information in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(d).

(6) All money paid by the state pursuant to a settlement or compromise must be consistently coded in the statewide accounting, budgeting, and human resource system so that when the code or codes are reviewed a complete list of all settled claims is provided. The department shall set the standards for the coding.

(7) Among the records to be maintained when monetary compensation is utilized to settle or compromise claims are documents signed by an appropriate official, including:

(a) a statement that no condition or limitation precludes the use of the funds utilized to pay the settlement or other monetary compensation or damages;

(b) a detailed description of the alleged conduct, acts, or omissions by one or more employees, officers, or agents of the state, and the state's defenses, including legal and factual defenses at issue in the case; and

(c) the settlement terms.

(8) When a governmental entity provides monetary compensation other than money to resolve a claim, the governmental entity must evaluate the value conveyed pursuant to the settlement or compromise to determine whether it meets the $10,000 threshold requiring disclosure under this section.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 511, L. 2021.

2-6-1033. Quarterly report on demands to resolve claims. (1) Each governmental entity shall submit a quarterly report to the legislative fiscal division disclosing all civil claims or complaints, including the identity of the court or entity of the state where the complaint is filed, received by or for which service of process has been perfected with initial demands seeking $10,000 or more in monetary compensation, exclusive of initial demands made in mediations or settlement conferences in which court rules or orders preclude disclosure of demands.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to an employee or official in the judicial branch.

(3) Claims for injunctive relief need not be reported as claims seeking monetary compensation.

(4) Demands deemed to be frivolous by governmental entities need not be reported under this section, and judicial review is not available to challenge any such determination made by a governmental entity. If a governmental entity does not disclose a claim or complaint in a quarterly report because the claim is deemed to be frivolous, the governmental entity shall disclose the number of claims or complaints not disclosed under the exemption in this subsection.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 511, L. 2021.

Part 11
Executive Branch Records

Part Cross-References

Right of department head to access to department's agencies and records before assuming position, 2-15-113.

2-6-1101. Secretary of state — powers and duties — rulemaking authority. To ensure the proper management and safeguarding of public records, the secretary of state shall:

(1) establish guidelines based on accepted industry standards for managing public records;

(2) upon request of another executive branch agency, review, analyze, and make recommendations regarding executive branch agency filing systems and procedures;

(3) operate the state records center for the purpose of storing and servicing public records not retained in office space;

(4) provide information and training materials for all phases of efficient and effective records management;

(5) consult with the department of administration pursuant to 2-6-1102;

(6) adopt rules regarding management of public records;

(7) adopt rules to implement the objectives of the state records committee and local government records committee; and

(8) upon request, assist and advise in the establishment of records management procedures in the legislative and judicial branches of state government and provide services similar to those available to the executive branch.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

2-6-1102. Department of administration — powers and duties. (1) To ensure compatibility with the information technology [resources] systems of state government and to promote adherence to records management principles and best practices, the department of administration, in consultation with the secretary of state, shall establish standards for technological compatibility for state agencies for records management equipment or systems used to electronically capture, store, or retrieve public records through computerized, optical, or other electronic methods.

(2) The department of administration, in consultation with the secretary of state, shall approve all acquisitions of executive branch agency records management equipment or systems used to electronically capture, store, or retrieve public records through computerized, optical, or other electronic methods to ensure compatibility with the standards developed under subsection (1).

(3) The department of administration is responsible for the management and operation of equipment, systems, facilities, and processes integral to information technology resources and the state telecommunications network.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Code Commissioner Correction: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

The Code Commissioner inserted the bracketed language in (1) to reflect revisions to terminology contained in Ch. 365, L. 2023, which generally changed the term "information technology systems" to "information technology resources".

2-6-1103. Agency records management duties. Each department head shall administer the executive branch agency's records management function and shall:

(1) coordinate all aspects of the agency records management function in accordance with procedures prescribed by the secretary of state and the state records committee;

(2) analyze records inventory data and examine and compare all inventories within the agency to minimize duplication of records;

(3) review and approve records disposal requests for submission to the retention and disposition subcommittee;

(4) review established records retention schedules to ensure they are complete and current and make recommendations to the secretary of state and the state records committee regarding minimal retentions for all copies of public records within the agency;

(5) incorporate records management requirements into the agency information technology plan provided for in 2-17-523;

(6) ensure that all agency employees receive appropriate and ongoing records management training; and

(7) after considering guidance from the state records committee regarding records manager qualifications, officially designate a qualified agency records manager to manage the functions provided for in this section.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Right of department head to access to department's agencies and records before assuming position, 2-15-113.

2-6-1104 through 2-6-1106 reserved.

2-6-1107. State records committee — composition and meetings. (1) There is a state records committee composed of:

(a) representatives of:

(i) the department of administration;

(ii) the legislative auditor;

(iii) the attorney general;

(iv) the secretary of state;

(v) the Montana historical society;

(vi) the governor;

(vii) the clerk of the supreme court; and

(viii) the state chief information officer; and

(b) five members representing executive branch agencies designated pursuant to subsections (4) and (5).

(2) The state records committee is administered by the secretary of state, and the secretary of state's representative serves as the presiding officer for the committee.

(3) The committee members representing the agencies in subsection (1)(a) are designated by the heads of the respective agencies, and their appointments must be submitted in writing to the secretary of state. These committee members serve at the pleasure of the heads of their respective agencies.

(4) To implement subsection (1)(b), the committee members in subsection (1)(a) shall develop a rotation by which each of the executive branch agencies is designated to select a representative to serve a 2-year term as a committee member. The secretary of state shall adopt the rotation by administrative rule.

(5) The committee shall establish guidelines for the heads of executive branch agencies in appointing representatives to ensure the executive branch representatives provide a balance of perspectives from records management, information technology, and legal professionals.

(6) The committee shall meet at least quarterly.

(7) Committee members shall serve without additional salary but are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while engaged in committee activities as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Expenses must be paid from the appropriations made for operation of their respective agencies.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1108. State records committee — duties and responsibilities. The purpose of the state records committee is to act as a resource for executive branch agencies and others by staying at the forefront of records management best practices. The committee shall:

(1) gather and disseminate information on all phases of records management;

(2) advise the secretary of state in developing records management standards, guidelines, and training materials;

(3) develop guidelines to help agencies identify, maintain, and secure their essential records;

(4) serve as a forum for continuing collaboration among records management, information technology, and legal professionals throughout state agencies;

(5) make recommendations to the secretary of state for rulemaking regarding public records management;

(6) regularly review existing public records laws and make recommendations to the secretary of state regarding pursuing statutory change; and

(7) report biennially to the governor and, as provided in 5-11-210, the legislature on the activities of the committee, improvements in records management in state government, aspects of records management requiring further improvement, and committee recommendations and plans for further improvement.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1109. Retention and disposition subcommittee — approval required for record disposal. (1) There is a subcommittee of the state records committee to be known as the retention and disposition subcommittee. The subcommittee is composed of the members of the state records committee who represent the following offices:

(a) the department of administration;

(b) the legislative auditor;

(c) the attorney general;

(d) the secretary of state; and

(e) the Montana historical society.

(2) The subcommittee shall approve, modify, or disapprove the recommendations on retention schedules of all public records.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), no public record may be disposed of or destroyed without the unanimous approval of the subcommittee. When approval is required, a request for the disposal or destruction must be submitted to the subcommittee by the agency concerned.

(4) The subcommittee may by unanimous approval establish categories of records for which no disposal request is required if those records are retained for the designated retention period.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1110 and 2-6-1111 reserved.

2-6-1112. Historic records — Montana historical society — powers and duties. To ensure the proper management and safeguarding of historic records, the Montana historical society shall:

(1) establish and operate the state archives as authorized by appropriation for the purpose of storing, preserving, and providing access to historic records transferred to the custody of the state archives;

(2) in cooperation with the secretary of state, the local government records committee, and the state records committee, establish guidelines to inventory, catalog, retain, transfer, and provide access to all historic records;

(3) maintain and enforce restrictions on access to historic records in the custody of the state archives in accordance with the provisions of this part; and

(4) in accordance with the guidelines established pursuant to subsection (2), remove and destroy duplicate records and records considered to have no historical value.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 348, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Preservation of records — state archives, Title 22, ch. 3, part 2.

2-6-1113. Constitutional officer records — Montana historical society. (1) All constitutional officer records are the property of the state. The records must be delivered by outgoing constitutional officers to their successors, who shall preserve, store, transfer, destroy, or dispose of and otherwise manage them in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Within 2 years after taking office as a constitutional officer, the current constitutional officer shall consult with staff members of the Montana historical society and transfer to the Montana historical society all of the constitutional officer records of the prior officeholder that are not necessary to the current operation of that office and are considered worthy of preservation.

(3) An outgoing constitutional officer, in consultation with staff members of the Montana historical society, shall review constitutional officer records and isolate any items of a purely personal nature. The personal papers are not subject to this section, but they may be deposited along with the constitutional officer records at the Montana historical society at the constitutional officer's discretion.

(4) An outgoing constitutional officer, in consultation with staff members of the Montana historical society, may restrict access to certain segments of that officer's records. Restrictions may not be longer than the lifetime of the depositing official. Restricted access may be imposed only to protect the confidentiality of personal information contained in the records. Restricted access may not be imposed unless the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

(5) Any question concerning the transfer or other status of constitutional officer records arising between the state archives and a constitutional officer's office must be decided by a four-fifths vote of the members of the retention and disposition subcommittee provided for in 2-6-1109.

History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 348, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Right to examine public documents subject to demand for individual privacy, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Ownership of public records, 2-6-1013.
Records of Secretary of State, 2-15-406.

2-6-1114. Permanent records — agency responsibilities — state records center. (1) All permanent records no longer required in the current operation of the office where they are made or kept and all records of each agency or activity of the executive branch of state government that has been abolished or discontinued must be maintained by the agency or transferred to the state records center in accordance with approved records retention schedules.

(2) When records are transferred to the state records center, the transferring agency does not lose its rights of control and access. The state records center is merely a custodian of the agency records, and access is only by agency approval. Agency records for which the state records center acts as custodian may not be subpoenaed from the state records center but must be subpoenaed from the agency to which the records belong. The state records center may charge fees to cover the cost of records storage and servicing.

(3) Prior to transferring a permanent record to the state records center, the transferring agency shall consult with the state archivist to determine whether the record is also a historic record. If the record is found to be a historic record, it must be transferred to the Montana historical society in accordance with the provisions of 2-6-1112.

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 348, L. 2015.**

Part 12
Local Government Records

2-6-1201. Local government records committee — composition and meetings. (1) There is a local government records committee.

(2) The committee consists of the following eight members:

(a) the state archivist;

(b) the state records manager;

(c) a representative of the department of administration;

(d) two local government records managers appointed by the director of the Montana historical society;

(e) two local government records managers appointed by the secretary of state; and

(f) a person representing the Montana state genealogical society, appointed by the secretary of state, who shall serve as a volunteer.

(3) Committee members subject to appointment shall hold office for a period of 2 years beginning January 1 of the year following their appointment.

(4) Vacancies must be filled in the same manner they were filled originally.

(5) The committee shall elect a presiding officer and a vice presiding officer.

(6) The committee shall meet at least twice a year upon the call of the secretary of state or the presiding officer.

(7) Except for the member appointed in subsection (2)(f), members of the committee not serving as part of their compensated government employment must be compensated in accordance with 2-18-501 through 2-18-503 for each day in committee attendance. Members who serve as part of their compensated government employment may not receive additional compensation, but the employing governmental entity shall furnish, in accordance with the prevailing per diem rates, a reasonable allowance for travel and other expenses incurred in attending committee meetings.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

2-6-1202. Local government records committee — duties and responsibilities. The local government records committee shall:

(1) approve, modify, or disapprove proposals for local government records retention and disposition schedules;

(2) appoint a subcommittee, known as the local government records destruction subcommittee, to handle requests for disposal of records that are not listed on an approved retention schedule. The subcommittee consists of the state archivist, one of the local government records managers, and the representative of the department of administration. Unless specifically authorized by statute or by the retention and disposition schedule, a local government public record may not be destroyed or otherwise disposed of without the unanimous approval of the subcommittee. When approval is required, a request for the disposal or destruction of local government records must be submitted to the subcommittee by the entity concerned. If there is not unanimous approval of the subcommittee, the issue of the disposition of a record must be referred to the local government records committee for approval. When approval is obtained from the subcommittee or from the local government records committee for the disposal of a record, the local government records committee shall consider the inclusion of a new category of record for which a disposal request is not required and shall update the schedule as necessary.

(3) establish a retention and disposition schedule for categories of records for which a disposal request is not required. The local government records committee shall publish the retention and disposition schedules. Updates to those schedules, if any, must be published at least annually.

(4) develop guidance for local governments to identify, maintain, and secure their essential records;

(5) respond to requests for technical advice on matters relating to local government records; and

(6) provide leadership and coordination in matters affecting the records of multiple local governments.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 678, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 678, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-6-1203 and 2-6-1204 reserved.

2-6-1205. Disposal of local government public records prohibited prior to offering — central registry — notification. (1) A local government public record that is more than 50 years old may not be destroyed unless it is first offered to the Montana historical society, the state archives, Montana public and private universities and colleges, local historical museums, local historical societies, Montana genealogical groups, and the general public.

(2) The availability of a public record to be destroyed must be noticed to the entities listed in subsection (1) at least 30 days prior to disposal.

(3) (a) Claimed records must be given to entities in the order of priority listed in subsection (1).

(b) All expenses for the removal of claimed records must be paid by the entity claiming the records.

(c) The local government records committee shall establish procedures by which public records must be offered and claimed pursuant to this section.

(d) The local government records committee shall develop and maintain a central registry of the entities identified in subsection (1) who are interested in receiving notice of the potential destruction of public records pursuant to this section. The registry must be constructed to allow a local government entity to notify the local government records committee when the entity intends to destroy documents covered under this section and allow the local government records committee to subsequently notify the entities in the registry. A local government entity's notice to the local government records committee pursuant to this subsection (3)(d) and the records committee's notice to the entities listed on the registry fulfill the notification requirements of this section.

(4) A local government entity shall ensure that any record that contains confidential information or is otherwise protected from disclosure is not added to the central registry under subsection (3).

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 678, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 678, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Parts 13 and 14 reserved

Part 15
State Agency Protection of Personal Information

2-6-1501. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Breach of the security of a data system" or "breach" means the unauthorized acquisition of computerized data that:

(a) materially compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of the personal information maintained by a state agency or by a third party on behalf of a state agency; and

(b) causes or is reasonably believed to cause loss or injury to a person.

(2) "Chief information security officer" means an employee at the department of administration designated by the chief information officer who is responsible for protecting the state's information assets and citizens' data by:

(a) advising and overseeing information security strategy and programs for executive branch state agencies without elected officials;

(b) advising and consulting information security strategy and programs for executive branch state agencies with elected officials and the legislative and judicial branches; and

(c) advising information security strategy and programs for city, county, consolidated city-county, and local governments and for school districts, other political subdivisions, or tribal governments.

(3) "Individual" means a human being.

(4) "Person" means an individual, a partnership, a corporation, an association, or a public organization of any character.

(5) (a) "Personal information" means a first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following data elements when the name and data elements are not encrypted:

(i) a social security number;

(ii) a driver's license number, an identification card number issued pursuant to 61-12-501, a tribal identification number or enrollment number, or a similar identification number issued by any state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or American Samoa;

(iii) an account number or credit or debit card number in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to a person's financial account;

(iv) medical record information as defined in 33-19-104;

(v) a taxpayer identification number; or

(vi) an identity protection personal identification number issued by the United States internal revenue service.

(b) The term does not include publicly available information from federal, state, local, or tribal government records.

(6) "Redaction" means the alteration of personal information contained within data to make all or a significant part of the data unreadable. The term includes truncation, which means that no more than the last four digits of an identification number are accessible as part of the data.

(7) "Security incident" means an occurrence that:

(a) actually or potentially jeopardizes the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system or the information the system processes, stores, or transmits; or

(b) constitutes a violation or imminent threat of violation of security policies, security procedures, or acceptable use policies.

(8) (a) "State agency" means an agency, authority, board, bureau, college, commission, committee, council, department, hospital, institution, office, university, or other instrumentality of the legislative or executive branch of state government. The term includes an employee of a state agency acting within the course and scope of employment.

(b) The term does not include an entity of the judicial branch.

(9) "Third party" means:

(a) a person with a contractual obligation to perform a function for a state agency; or

(b) a state agency with a contractual or other obligation to perform a function for another state agency.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 227, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 227, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-6-1502. Protection of personal information — compliance — extensions. (1) Each state agency that maintains the personal information of an individual shall develop procedures to protect the personal information while enabling the state agency to use the personal information as necessary for the performance of its duties under federal or state law.

(2) The procedures must include measures to:

(a) eliminate the unnecessary use of personal information;

(b) identify the person or state agency authorized to have access to personal information;

(c) restrict access to personal information by unauthorized persons or state agencies;

(d) identify circumstances in which redaction of personal information is appropriate;

(e) dispose of documents that contain personal information in a manner consistent with other record retention requirements applicable to the state agency;

(f) eliminate the unnecessary storage of personal information on portable devices; and

(g) protect data containing personal information if that data is on a portable device.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), each state agency that is created after October 1, 2015, shall complete the requirements of this section within 1 year of its creation.

(4) The chief information officer provided for in 2-17-511 may grant an extension to any state agency subject to the provisions of the Montana Information Technology Act provided for in Title 2, chapter 17, part 5. The chief information officer shall inform the governor, the office of budget and program planning, and the legislative finance committee of all extensions that are granted and of the rationale for granting the extensions. The chief information officer shall maintain written documentation that identifies the terms and conditions of each extension and the rationale for the extension.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 227, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 227, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-6-1503. Notification of breach of security of data system. (1) (a) Upon discovery or notification of a breach of the security of a data system, a state agency that maintains computerized data containing personal information in the data system shall make reasonable efforts to notify any person whose unencrypted personal information was or is reasonably believed to have been acquired by an unauthorized person.

(b) The notification must be made without unreasonable delay, consistent with the legitimate needs of law enforcement as provided in subsection (3) or with any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach and to restore the reasonable integrity of the data system.

(2) (a) A third party that receives personal information from a state agency and maintains that information in a computerized data system to perform a state agency function shall:

(i) notify the state agency immediately following discovery of the breach if the personal information is reasonably believed to have been acquired by an unauthorized person; and

(ii) make reasonable efforts upon discovery or notification of a breach to notify any person whose unencrypted personal information is reasonably believed to have been acquired by an unauthorized person as part of the breach. This notification must be provided in the same manner as the notification required in subsection (1).

(b) A state agency notified of a breach by a third party has no independent duty to provide notification of the breach if the third party has provided notification of the breach in the manner required by subsection (2)(a) but shall provide notification if the third party fails to do so in a reasonable time and may recover from the third party its reasonable costs for providing the notice.

(3) The notification required by this section may be delayed if a law enforcement agency determines that the notification will impede a criminal investigation and requests a delay of notification. The notification required by this section must be made after the law enforcement agency determines that the notification will not compromise the investigation.

(4) All state agencies and third parties to whom personal information is disclosed by a state agency shall develop and maintain:

(a) an information security policy designed to safeguard personal information; and

(b) breach notification procedures that provide reasonable notice to individuals as provided in subsections (1) and (2).

(5) A state agency or third party that is required to issue a notification to an individual pursuant to this section shall simultaneously submit to the state's chief information security officer at the department of administration and to the attorney general's consumer protection office an electronic copy of the notification and a statement providing the date and method of distribution of the notification. The electronic copy and statement of notification must exclude any information that identifies the person who is entitled to receive notification. If notification is made to more than one person, a single copy of the notification that includes the number of people who were notified must be submitted to the chief information officer and the consumer protection office.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 227, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 227, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-6-1504. Immediate notification. On discovery or notification of a security incident, a state agency shall provide immediate notification without unreasonable delay to the chief information security officer.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

CHAPTER 7
STUDIES, REPORTS, AND AUDITS

Part 1 — Studies and Reports

2-7-101. Repealed.
2-7-102. Repealed.
2-7-103. Review of executive branch by governor.
2-7-104. Revenue studies — report to governor and legislature.
2-7-105. Tax information submitted.

Parts 2 through 4 reserved

Part 5 — Audits of Political Subdivisions

2-7-501. Definitions.
2-7-502. Short title — purpose.
2-7-503. Financial reports and audits of local government entities.
2-7-504. Accounting methods.
2-7-505. Audit scope and standards.
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2-7-515. Actions by governing bodies.
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2-7-517. Penalties — rules to establish fine.
2-7-518. Deposit of fees.
2-7-519 and 2-7-520 reserved.
2-7-521. Publication.
2-7-522. Report review.
2-7-523. Cause of action — failure to file reports and audits or resolve findings.
2-7-524. Filing of claims against local government entity — disposition by department as prerequisite.

Part 1
Studies and Reports

2-7-101. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 3, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4001.

2-7-102. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 125, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 93, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4002; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 1979.

2-7-103. Review of executive branch by governor. The office of the governor shall continuously study and evaluate the organizational structure, management practices, and functions of the executive branch and of each agency. The governor shall, by executive order or other means within the authority granted to the governor, take action to improve the manageability of the executive branch.

History: En. 82-1315 by Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1315; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 125, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Executive state agencies, Title 2, ch. 15.

2-7-104. Revenue studies — report to governor and legislature. The director of revenue shall study fiscal problems and tax structures of state and local governments and submit the studies to the governor and to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

History: En. 82A-1804 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1804(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Department of Revenue — Director, 2-15-1301.

2-7-105. Tax information submitted. It shall be the duty of all public officers of the state and of any municipality to give to the department of revenue information in their possession relating to taxation when required by the department and cooperate with and aid the department in every manner in its efforts to secure a fair, equitable, and just enforcement of the taxation and revenue laws of the state.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 3, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 2122.15, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 516, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 84-715.

Parts 2 through 4 reserved

Part 5
Audits of Political Subdivisions

2-7-501. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Audit" means a financial audit and includes financial statement and financial-related audits as defined by government auditing standards as established by the U.S. comptroller general.

(2) "Board" means the Montana board of public accountants provided for in 2-15-1756.

(3) "Department" means the department of administration.

(4) (a) "Financial assistance" means assistance provided by a federal, state, or local government entity to a local government entity or subrecipient to carry out a program. Financial assistance may be in the form of grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, loans, loan guarantees, property, interest subsidies, insurance, direct appropriations, or other noncash assistance. Financial assistance includes awards received directly from federal and state agencies or indirectly when subrecipients receive funds identified as federal or state funds by recipients. The granting agency is responsible for identifying the source of funds awarded to recipients. The recipient is responsible for identifying the source of funds awarded to subrecipients.

(b) Financial assistance does not include direct federal, state, or local government cash assistance to individuals.

(5) "Financial report" means a presentation of financial statements, including applicable supplemental notes and supplemental schedules, that are prepared in a format published by the department using the Budgetary Accounting and Reporting System for Montana Cities, Towns, and Counties Manual and that reflect a current financial position and the operating results for the 1-year reporting period.

(6) "Independent auditor" means:

(a) a federal, state, or local government auditor who meets the standards specified in the government auditing standards; or

(b) a certified public accountant who meets the standards in subsection (6)(a).

(7) (a) "Local government entity" means a county, city, district, or public corporation that:

(i) has the power to raise revenue or receive, disburse, or expend local, state, or federal government revenue for the purpose of serving the general public;

(ii) is governed by a board, commission, or individual elected or appointed by the public or representatives of the public; and

(iii) receives local, state, or federal financial assistance.

(b) Local government entities include but are not limited to:

(i) airport authority districts;
(ii) cemetery districts;
(iii) counties;
(iv) county housing authorities;
(v) county road improvement districts;
(vi) county sewer districts;
(vii) county water districts;
(viii) county weed management districts;
(ix) drainage districts;
(x) fire companies;
(xi) fire districts;
(xii) fire service areas;
(xiii) hospital districts;
(xiv) incorporated cities or towns;
(xv) irrigation districts;
(xvi) mosquito districts;
(xvii) municipal fire departments;
(xviii) municipal housing authority districts;
(xix) port authorities;
(xx) solid waste management districts;

(xxi) rural improvement districts;
(xxii) school districts, including a district's extracurricular funds;
(xxiii) soil conservation districts;
(xxiv) special education or other cooperatives;
(xxv) television districts;
(xxvi) urban transportation districts;
(xxvii) water conservancy districts;
(xxviii) regional resource authorities; and
(xxix) other miscellaneous and special districts.

(8) "Revenues" means all receipts of a local government entity from any source excluding the proceeds from bond issuances.

History: En. 82-4515 by Sec. 1, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4515; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 449, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 351, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 2015.

2-7-502. Short title — purpose. (1) This part may be cited as the "State of Montana Single Audit Act".

(2) The purposes of this part are to:

(a) improve the financial management of local government entities with respect to federal, state, and local financial assistance;

(b) establish uniform requirements for financial reports and audits of local government entities;

(c) ensure constituent interests by determining that compliance with all appropriate statutes and regulations is accomplished;

(d) ensure that the financial condition and operations of the local government entities are reasonably conducted and reported;

(e) ensure that the stewardship of local government entities is conducted in a manner to preserve and protect the public trust;

(f) ensure that local government entities accomplish, with economy and efficiency, the duties and responsibilities of the entities in accordance with the legal requirements imposed and the desires of the public; and

(g) promote the efficient and effective use of audit resources.

History: En. 82-4517 by Sec. 3, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4517; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 489, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Constitutional mandate for strict financial accountability of local governments, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.

2-7-503. Financial reports and audits of local government entities. (1) (a) The governing body or managing or executive officer of a local government entity, other than a school district or associated cooperative, shall ensure that a financial report is made every year. A school district or associated cooperative shall comply with the provisions of 20-9-213.

(i) The financial report must cover the preceding fiscal year and be in a form prescribed by the department or be in an alternative form acceptable to the department as provided in subsection (1)(a)(ii). The completed report must be submitted to the department for review within 6 months of the end of the reporting period. The department may grant a 3-month extension for the submittal of an audit in lieu of a financial report.

(ii) An alternative format of a financial report acceptable to the department may be used by local government entities with a population of 10,000 or less as reported in the most recent decennial survey issued by the United States census bureau and that meets the requirements outlined in department rule.

(b) The financial report of a local government that has authorized the use of tax increment financing pursuant to 7-15-4282 must include a report of the financial activities related to the tax increment financing provision.

(2) The department shall prescribe a uniform reporting system for all local government entities subject to financial reporting requirements, other than school districts. The superintendent of public instruction shall prescribe the reporting requirements for school districts.

(3) (a) The governing body or managing or executive officer of each local government entity receiving revenue or financial assistance in the period covered by the financial report that is in excess of the threshold dollar amount established by the director of the office of management and budget pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 7502(a)(3), regardless of the source of revenue or financial assistance, shall cause an audit to be made. The audit may cover the entity's preceding 2 fiscal years and must commence within 9 months from the close of the last fiscal year of the audit period. The audit must be completed and submitted to the department for review within 1 year from the close of the last fiscal year covered by the audit.

(b) The governing body or managing or executive officer of a local government entity that does not meet the criteria established in subsection (3)(a) shall at least once every 4 years, if directed by the department, or, in the case of a school district, if directed by the department at the request of the superintendent of public instruction, cause a financial review, as defined by department rule, to be conducted of the financial statements of the entity for the preceding fiscal year.

(4) An audit conducted in accordance with this part is in lieu of any financial or financial and compliance audit of an individual financial assistance program that a local government is required to conduct under any other state or federal law or regulation. If an audit conducted pursuant to this part provides a state agency with the information that it requires to carry out its responsibilities under state or federal law or regulation, the state agency shall rely upon and use that information to plan and conduct its own audits or reviews in order to avoid a duplication of effort.

(5) In addition to the audits required by this section, the department may at any time conduct or contract for a special audit or review of the affairs of any local government entity referred to in this part. The special audit or review must, to the extent practicable, build upon audits performed pursuant to this part.

(6) The fee for the special audit or review must be a charge based upon the costs incurred by the department in relation to the special audit or review. The audit fee must be paid by the local government entity to the state treasurer and must be deposited in the enterprise fund to the credit of the department.

(7) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section subjects the local government entity to the penalties provided in 2-7-517.

History: En. 82-4516, 82-4529 by Secs. 2, 15, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4516(1) thru (3), 82-4529; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 573, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 49, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 565, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 673, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 430, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 458, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Fiscal strict accountability — local governments, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Rural and municipal fire departments, Title 7, ch. 33.
Fire department retirement associations, Title 19, ch. 18.
Classification of school districts, 20-6-201, 20-6-301.
Irrigation districts — taxes and assessments, Title 85, ch. 7, part 21.
Conservancy district finances, Title 85, ch. 9, part 6.

2-7-504. Accounting methods. (1) Unless otherwise required by law, the department shall prescribe by rule the general methods and details of accounting for the receipt and disbursement of all money belonging to local government entities and shall establish in those offices general methods and details of accounting. All local government entity officers shall conform with the accounting standards prescribed by the department.

(2) The rules adopted by the department must be in accordance with:

(a) generally accepted accounting principles established by the governmental accounting standards board or its generally recognized successor; or

(b) a small government financial reporting framework that is defined by the department and derived from the generally accepted accounting principles referenced in subsection (2)(a).

History: **En. 82-4530 by Sec. 16, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4530; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 1, Sp. L. June 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, Sp. L. June 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 430, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 2019.**

2-7-505. Audit scope and standards. (1) Each audit must be a comprehensive audit of the affairs of the local government entity and must be made in accordance with auditing standards and in accordance with federal regulations adopted by the department by rule.

(2) The department, with cooperation from state agencies, shall prepare a local government compliance supplement that contains state and federal regulations applicable to local government entities. Auditors shall use the compliance supplement adopted pursuant to this section in conjunction with government auditing standards adopted by the department to determine the compliance testing to be performed during an audit.

(3) When auditing a county or a consolidated government, auditors shall perform tests for compliance with state laws relating to receipts and disbursements of custodial funds maintained by the entity. Findings related to compliance tests must be reported in accordance with the reporting standards for financial audits prescribed in government auditing standards adopted by the department.

History: **En. 82-4518 by Sec. 4, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4518; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 573, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 2019.**

2-7-506. Audit by independent auditor. (1) The department may prepare and maintain a roster of independent auditors authorized to conduct audits of local government entities. The roster must be available to local government entities subject to the reporting requirements of 2-7-503.

(2) The department, in consultation with the board, shall adopt rules governing the:

(a) criteria for the selection of the independent auditor;

(b) procedures and qualifications for placing applicants on the roster;

(c) procedures for reviewing the qualifications of independent auditors on the roster to justify their continuance on the roster; and

(d) fees payable to the department for application for placement on the roster.

(3) An audit made by an independent auditor must be pursuant to a contract entered into by the governing body or managing or executive officer of the local government. The department must be a party to the contract and the contract may not be executed until it is signed by the department. All contracts for conducting audits must be in a form prescribed or approved by the department.

(4) The department shall notify the local government entity of a required audit, the date the report is due, and the requirement that the local government entity, the independent auditor, and the department must be parties to the contract.

(5) If a local government entity fails to present a signed contract to the department for approval within 90 days of receipt of the audit notice, the department may designate an independent auditor to perform the audit. The costs incurred by the department in arranging the audit must be paid by the local government entity to the department in the manner of other claims against the local government entity.

History: **En. 82-4525 by Sec. 11, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4525; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 573, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 260, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Licensure of accountants, 2-15-1756; Title 37, ch. 50.

2-7-507. Duty of officers to aid in audit. The officers and employees of the local government entities referred to in this part shall provide all reasonable facilities for the audit and shall furnish all information to the independent auditor necessary for the conduct of the audit.

History: **En. 82-4527 by Sec. 13, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4527; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 489, L. 1991.**

2-7-508. Power to examine books and papers. The independent auditor may examine any books, papers, accounts, and documents in the office or possession of any local government entity.

History: **En. 82-4528 by Sec. 14, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4528; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 489, L. 1991.**

2-7-509. Audits of school-related organizations — costs — criteria. (1) The legislative auditor may conduct or have conducted an audit of the records of organizations referred to in 2-3-203(2).

(2) Before public funds are transferred to the organization, a member shall obtain the organization's written consent to:

(a) the audit provided for in subsection (1); and

(b) pay the costs of the audit.

(3) An audit of an organization performed under this section must determine if:

(a) the organization is carrying out only those activities or programs authorized by state law and its articles of incorporation, bylaws, and policies;

(b) expenditures are made in furtherance of authorized activities in accordance with applicable laws and its articles of incorporation, bylaws, and policies;

(c) the organization properly collects and accounts for all revenues and receipts arising from its activities in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(d) the assets of the organization or the assets in its custody are adequately safeguarded and are controlled and used in an efficient manner; and

(e) reports and financial statements fully disclose the nature and scope of the activities conducted and provide a proper basis for evaluating the operations of the organization.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 678, L. 1991.**

2-7-510 reserved.

2-7-511. Access to public accounts — suspension of officer in case of discrepancy. (1) The independent auditor may count the cash, verify the bank accounts, and verify all accounts of a public officer whose accounts the independent auditor is examining under law.

(2) If an officer of any county, city, town, school, or other local government entity refuses to provide the independent auditor access during an audit of the officer's accounts to cash, bank accounts, or any of the papers, vouchers, or records of that office or if the independent auditor finds a shortage of cash, the independent auditor shall immediately file a preliminary report showing the refusal of that officer or the existence of the shortage and the approximate amount of the shortage with the respective county, city, or town attorney and the governing body of the local government entity.

(3) Upon filing of the statement, the officer of the local government entity shall after notice and the opportunity for a hearing be suspended from the duties and emoluments of office and the governing body of the local government entity shall appoint a qualified person to the office pending completion of the audit.

(4) Upon the completion of the audit by the independent auditor, if a shortage of cash existed in the accounts of the officer, the independent auditor shall notify the governing body of the local government entity of the shortage.

(5) If the governing body finds that a shortage exists and that the officer suspended is, by act or omission, responsible for the shortage, the officer's right to the office is forfeited and the report of the audit must be referred to the county attorney.

History: **En. 82-4526 by Sec. 12, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4526; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Prosecutorial duty of County Attorney, 7-4-2712.

2-7-512. Exit review conference. Upon completion of each audit, the independent auditor is required to hold with the appropriate officials an exit review conference in which the audit results must be discussed.

History: **En. 82-4519 by Sec. 5, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4519; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 489, L. 1991.**

2-7-513. Content of audit report and financial report. (1) The audit reports must comply with the reporting requirements of government auditing standards issued by the U.S. comptroller general and federal regulations adopted by department rule.

(2) The department shall prescribe general methods and details of accounting for the financial report for local government entities other than schools. The financial report must be submitted in a form required by the department. The superintendent of public instruction shall prescribe the general methods and details of accounting for financial reports for schools.

History: En. 82-4520 by Sec. 6, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4520; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 430, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 278, L. 2001.

2-7-514. Filing of audit report and financial report. (1) Completed audit reports must be filed with the department. Completed financial reports must be filed with the department as provided in 2-7-503(1). The state superintendent of public instruction shall file with the department a list of school districts subject to audit under 2-7-503(3). The list must be filed with the department within 6 months after the close of the fiscal year.

(2) At the time that the financial report is filed or, in the case of a school district, when the audit report is filed with the department, the local government entity shall pay to the department a filing fee. The department shall charge a filing fee to any local government entity required to have an audit under 2-7-503, which fee must be based upon the costs incurred by the department in the administration of this part. Notwithstanding the provisions of 20-9-343, the filing fees for school districts required by this section must be paid by the office of public instruction. The department shall adopt the fee schedule by rule based upon the local government entities' revenue amounts, except that a local government meeting the requirements of 2-7-503(3)(b) shall pay only the administrative fee set by the department in rule.

(3) Copies of the completed audit and financial reports must be made available by the department and the local government entity for public inspection during regular office hours.

History: En. 82-4521 by Sec. 7, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4521(1), (3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 140, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 2017.

2-7-515. Actions by governing bodies. (1) Upon receipt of the audit report, the governing bodies of each audited local government entity shall review the contents and within 30 days shall submit to the department a corrective action plan detailing what action or actions they plan to take on any findings or recommendations contained in the audit report. If no findings or recommendations appear in the audit report, notification is not required. If the local government entity is a school district, the local government entity shall also send a copy of the corrective action plan to the superintendent of public instruction.

(2) Notification to the department shall include a statement by the governing bodies that noted findings or recommendations for improvement have been acted on by adoption as recommended, adoption with modification, or rejection.

(3) Within 30 days of receipt of the corrective action plan, the department shall notify the entity of the acceptance or rejection of the corrective measures. If the department and the local government entity fail to agree on the corrective measures, a conference between the parties must be held within 30 days of the department's decision not to accept the local government entity's corrective measures. Failure to resolve significant findings or implement corrective measures must result in the withholding of financial assistance in accordance with rules adopted by the department pending resolution or compliance.

(4) In cases where a violation of law or nonperformance of duty is found on the part of an officer, employee, or board, the officer, employee, or board must be proceeded against by the attorney general or county, city, or town attorney as provided by law. If a written request to do so is received from the department, the county, city, or town attorney shall report the proceedings instituted or to be instituted, relating to the violations of law and nonperformance of duty, to the department within 30 days after receiving the request. If the county, city, or town attorney fails or refuses to prosecute the case, the department shall refer the case to the attorney general to prosecute the case at the expense of the local government entity.

History: En. 82-4521, 82-4522 by Secs. 7, 8, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4521(2), 82-4522; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 2019.

2-7-516. Audit fees. (1) The compensation to the independent auditor for conducting an audit must be agreed upon by the governing body or managing or executive officer of the local government entity and the independent auditor and must be paid in the manner that other claims against the local government entity are paid.

(2) The compensation for an audit conducted by the department must be paid by the local government entity to the state treasurer and be deposited in an enterprise fund to the credit of the department.

History: En. 82-4524 by Sec. 10, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4524; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 573, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 489, L. 1991.

2-7-517. Penalties — rules to establish fine. (1) Except as provided in 15-1-121(12)(b), when a local government entity has failed to file a report as required by 2-7-503(1)or make payment required by 2-7-514(2) within 60 days, the department may issue an order stopping payment of any state financial assistance to the local government entity or may charge a late payment penalty as adopted by rule. Upon receipt of the report or payment of the filing fee, all financial assistance that was withheld under this section must be released and paid to the local government entity.

(2) In addition to the penalty provided in subsection (1), if a local government entity has not filed the audits or reports pursuant to 2-7-503 within 180 days of the dates required by 2-7-503, the department shall notify the entity of the fine due to the department and shall provide public notice of the delinquent audits or reports.

(3) The department may grant an extension to a local government entity for filing the audits and reports required under 2-7-503 or may waive the fines, fees, and other penalties imposed in this section if the local government entity shows good cause for the delinquency or demonstrates that the failure to comply with 2-7-503 was the result of circumstances beyond the entity's control.

(4) The department shall adopt rules establishing a fine, not to exceed $100, based on the cost of providing public notice under subsection (2), for failure to file audits or reports required by 2-7-503 in the timeframes required under that section.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 573, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 3, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 289, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 173, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 373, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 373, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-7-518. Deposit of fees. All fees received from local government entities must be deposited in the enterprise fund to the credit of the department of administration for administration of Title 2, chapter 7, part 5.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 573, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-7-519 and 2-7-520 reserved.

2-7-521. Publication. (1) (a) After the expiration of the 30-day period provided for in 2-7-515(1), the local government entity shall send a copy of each audit report to a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the local government entity. However, each county audit report must be sent to the official newspaper of the county.

(b) For an audit report of a county or an incorporated city or town, the county, city, or town shall send to the appropriate newspaper a copy of a summary of significant findings regarding the audit report. The summary, which may not exceed 800 words, must be prepared by the independent auditor and contain a statement indicating that it is only a summary and is not intended to be used as an audit report.

(2) For an audit report of a county or incorporated city or town, a newspaper is required to publish only:

(a) the summary of significant findings provided for in subsection (1)(b); and

(b) a statement to the effect that the audit report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection.

(3) For an audit report of a local government entity other than a county or incorporated city or town, the newspaper is required to publish only the statement provided for in subsection (2)(b) and a statement providing that the audited local government entity will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.

(4) Publication costs must be borne by the audited local government entity.

History: En. 82-4523 by Sec. 9, Ch. 380, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4523; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 140, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 607, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 489, L. 1991.

Cross-References

County advertising — contract with newspaper within county, 18-7-411.

2-7-522. Report review. (1) The department shall determine whether the provisions of this part have been complied with by the independent auditor.

(2) Upon receipt of the audit report from the local government entity the department shall review the report. If the department determines the reporting requirements have not been met, the department shall notify the local government entity and the independent auditor submitting the report of the significant issues of noncompliance. The notification must include issuance of a statement of deficiencies by the department. The department shall allow the independent auditor 60 days to correct the identified deficiencies.

(3) If the corrections are not made within 60 days of the department's notice, the department shall notify the local government entity that the report has not been received. Failure to submit a report shall result in the withholding of payment of the audit fee pending resolution of the identified deficiencies or receipt of a corrected report.

(4) Upon review of the report, if the department determines the independent auditor has issued a report that fails to meet the auditing standards referred to in 2-7-513 or contains false or misleading information, the department shall notify the board.

(5) The department shall review the audit report findings and the response of the governing body or executive or managing officer of the local government entity submitted under 2-7-515. When the findings concern financial assistance, the department shall notify the state agency that is responsible for disbursing the state or federal funding.

(6) The department must have access in its office to the working papers of the independent auditor.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 489, L. 1991.

2-7-523. Cause of action — failure to file reports and audits or resolve findings. (1) If a local government entity fails to file an annual financial report with the department as required by 2-7-503(1), to complete and submit an audit or financial review to the department as required by 2-7-503(3), or to resolve significant audit findings or implement corrective measures as required by 2-7-515(3) within 2 years of the applicable deadlines, a person identified in subsection (2) of this section who has received a written determination from the department under 2-7-524(3)(c) or (4)(b) may bring a cause of action against the local government entity for failure to comply with the local government entity's fiduciary requirements.

(2) The following parties may bring a cause of action under the provisions of subsection (1):

(a) any person who pays property taxes to the local government entity;

(b) any elected officer of any local taxing jurisdiction that collects revenue from or distributes revenue to the local government entity;

(c) any person residing within the jurisdictional boundaries of the local government entity who can demonstrate a specific personal and legal interest, as distinguished from a general interest, and has been or is likely to be specially and injuriously affected by the local government entity's failure to meet the requirements as set forth in subsection (1).

(3) The cause of action must be filed in the district court in the county where the local government entity is located.

(4) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, the court may grant relief that it considers appropriate, including but not limited to providing declaratory relief, appointing a financial receiver for the local government entity, or compelling a mandatory duty required under this part that is imposed on a state or local government officer or local government entity. If a party identified in subsection (2) prevails in an action brought under this section, that party must be awarded costs and reasonable attorney fees.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 268, L. 2019.

2-7-524. Filing of claims against local government entity — disposition by department as prerequisite. (1) All claims against a local government entity for failure to file an annual financial report with the department as required by 2-7-503(1), failure to complete and submit an audit or financial review to the department as required by 2-7-503(3), or failure to resolve significant audit findings or implement corrective measures as required by 2-7-515(3) within 2 years of the applicable deadlines must be presented in writing to the department.

(2) A complaint based on a claim subject to the provisions of subsection (1) may not be filed in district court unless the claimant has first presented the claim to the department and submitted a copy of the claim to the local government entity. Upon the department's receipt of the claim, the statute of limitations on the claim is tolled until a written determination is issued under subsection (3).

(3) The department must review the claim and issue one of the following determinations in writing within 60 days after the claim is presented to the department:

(a) the local government entity has not violated the requirements of this part for a period of 2 years from the applicable deadlines;

(b) there is sufficient evidence of the violations of the requirements of this part for a period of 2 years from the applicable deadlines, and the department will initiate further technical assistance to help the local government entity come into compliance with this part within 6 months; or

(c) there is sufficient evidence of the violations of the requirements of this part for a period of 2 years from the applicable deadlines.

(4) If the department issues a written determination under subsection (3)(b), within 6 months the department must provide the complainant with a final determination that either:

(a) the local government entity has come into compliance with the provisions of this part; or

(b) there is sufficient evidence of the violations of the requirements of this part.

(5) A complainant must receive a written determination from the department under subsection (3)(c) or (4)(b) before proceeding to district court in accordance with 2-7-523.

(6) The failure of the department to issue a written determination of a claim within 60 days after the claim is presented to the department must be considered a written determination under subsection (3)(c) for purposes of this section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 268, L. 2019.

CHAPTER 8
LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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Part 1
Periodic Agency Evaluation

2-8-101. Purpose. (1) The legislature finds state government actions have produced a substantial increase in numbers of agencies, growth of programs, and proliferation of rules. The legislature questions whether conditions causing the establishment of these agencies, programs, and rules have not changed to such an extent as to remove the need for some or all of the agencies, programs, and rules.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature, by establishing a system of periodic evaluation of the need for and the performance of agencies or programs preparatory to termination, modification, or reestablishment, to be in a better position to ensure as follows:

(a) The executive department is responsive to the needs of all of the people of the state.

(b) No agency, program, or rule exists which is not responsive to those needs.

(c) No profession, occupation, business, industry, or other endeavor is subject to the state's regulatory power unless the exercise of such power is necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare from significant and discernible harm or damage. The exercise of the state's police power shall be done only to the extent necessary for that purpose.

(d) The state may not regulate a profession, occupation, industry, business, or other endeavor in a manner which will unreasonably adversely affect the competitive market.

(e) There exists a systematic legislative review of the need for and public benefits derived from a program or function by a periodic review and termination, modification, or reestablishment of such programs and functions.

History: En. 82-4601 by Sec. 1, Ch. 562, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4601; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 321, L. 1983.

2-8-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" means an office, position, commission, committee, board, department, council, division, bureau, section, or any other entity or instrumentality of the executive department of state government.

(2) "Performance audit" means an examination of the effectiveness of administration and its efficiency and adequacy in terms of the program of a state agency authorized by law to be performed and the conformance of expenditures with legislative intent. Audits conducted shall include an analysis of the operation of the agency, with special regard to the duplication of efforts between the audited agency or program and other agencies or programs and the quality of service being rendered.

(3) "Program" means any legislatively or administratively created function, project, or duty of an agency.

History: En. 82-4602 by Sec. 2, Ch. 562, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4602; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 321, L. 1983.

Cross-References

"School district" — application to community college districts, 20-15-403.

2-8-103. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 321, L. 1983.

History: En. 82-4603 by Sec. 3, Ch. 562, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4603; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 321, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 325, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 351, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 364, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 388, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 462, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 491, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 546, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 549, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 655, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 684, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 96, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 106, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 149, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 155, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 248, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 292, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 323, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 324, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 326, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 362, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 363, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 378, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 444, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 543, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 544, L. 1981.

2-8-104. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 321, L. 1983.

History: En. 82-4609 by Sec. 9, Ch. 562, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4609.

2-8-105. Determination of agencies and programs to be reviewed. (1) Before September 1 of each even-numbered year, the governor may furnish the legislative audit committee with a list of recommendations for agencies and programs to be terminated and subject to a performance audit during the next biennium pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. The list must be prioritized and must set forth the governor's reasons for recommending each agency or program for review.

(2) The legislative audit committee shall review the list submitted by the governor, suggestions from legislators and legislative committees, staff recommendations, and any other relevant information and compile recommendations of agencies and programs to be terminated and subject to a performance audit. The committee shall submit its recommendations to the next legislature in the form of a bill terminating those designated agencies and programs at the times specified in the bill and requiring a performance audit of each agency and program under the provisions of Title 2, chapter 8, within the time specified and prior to termination.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Legislative Audit Committee, Title 5, ch. 13, part 2.

2-8-106 through 2-8-110 reserved.

2-8-111. Prereview responsibilities of agencies. An agency designated for termination or whose program or programs are designated for termination shall, by 22 months preceding the date set for termination:

(1) delineate the goals of the programs, which goals reflect the state's constitution, statutes, and authoritative judicial, legislative, and executive decisions or pronouncements;

(2) delineate the objectives of the programs and lay out, clearly enough to be tested, the logic in the assumptions linking expenditures to outcome anticipated, outcome anticipated to objectives, and objectives to impact on problems addressed in goals;

(3) furnish to the legislative auditor, upon request of the auditor, the information necessary to conduct a performance audit as required by this chapter.

History: **En. 82-4605 by Sec. 5, Ch. 562, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4605; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 321, L. 1983.**

2-8-112. Legislative audit committee review and report — review criteria. (1) The legislative audit committee is responsible for conducting a review of each agency or program scheduled for termination. The review shall be completed at least 6 months prior to the date set for termination. If for any reason a review of an agency or program cannot be completed as required by this chapter, the legislative audit committee shall submit a proposed bill for the ensuing legislative session to reestablish the agency or program.

(2) The review conducted shall include a performance audit of the agency or program, with emphasis on its effect on the public health, safety, and welfare.

(3) The legislative audit committee shall assist in the implementation of the provisions of this part and shall establish administrative procedures which facilitate the review and evaluation as required in this part.

(4) Upon completion of its review, the legislative audit committee shall, as provided in 5-11-210, make a report of its recommendations for continuation, modification, or termination and submit a proposed bill to the ensuing legislative session. If termination is recommended, the bill should repeal or otherwise deal with all statutes and parts of statutes relating to the agency's or program's activities.

History: **En. 82-4604 by Sec. 4, Ch. 562, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4604; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 321, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 112, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

Legislative Audit Committee, Title 5, ch. 13, part 2.

2-8-113. Hearings by standing committee — criteria for termination. (1) Prior to termination of an agency or program, the appropriate standing committee in each house of the legislature or a joint committee of both houses composed of members of the standing committee assigned to conduct the hearing shall hold a public hearing, receiving testimony from the public and the head of the department to which the agency or program involved is attached, the head of the agency involved, and persons who conducted the review.

(2) In the event termination of an agency or program is recommended by the legislative audit committee, the agency involved in the termination has the burden of demonstrating a public need for the agency's or program's continued existence and the extent to which a change in the composition, structure, and operation of the agency or program would improve public health, safety, or welfare.

(3) In determining whether to reestablish an agency or program, the legislature shall consider the performance audit and review conducted by the legislative audit committee, public testimony, and other matters considered relevant by the committee.

History: **En. 82-4606 by Sec. 6, Ch. 562, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4606; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 321, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

2-8-114 through 2-8-120 reserved.

2-8-121. Effect of termination. Unless otherwise provided, upon termination, each agency, program, or unit shall continue in existence until July 1 of the next succeeding year for the purpose of winding up its affairs. During the windup period, termination does not reduce or otherwise limit the powers or authority of each respective agency or program except that no action may be taken which would continue in effect beyond the 1-year windup period. Upon the expiration of the 1 year after termination, each agency or program not modified or reestablished shall be abolished and all unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds shall revert to the fund from which they were appropriated or, if that fund is abolished, to the general fund.

History: En. 82-4607 by Sec. 7, Ch. 562, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4607; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 497, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 321, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Termination of state agencies, Title 2, ch. 19.

2-8-122. Reestablishment. (1) Any agency or program scheduled for termination under this part or any subsequent act may be reestablished by the legislature.

(2) No more than one agency or program may be continued or reestablished in any bill for an act, and the agency or program shall be mentioned in the bill's title.

History: En. 82-4608 by Sec. 8, Ch. 562, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4608; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 321, L. 1983.

Part 2
Committee Assessment of Boards (Repealed)

2-8-201. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 266, L. 1987.

2-8-202. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 266, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1989.

2-8-203. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 266, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 710, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 112, L. 1991.

2-8-204. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 266, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 710, L. 1989.

2-8-205. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 266, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 710, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1991.

2-8-206. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 266, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 710, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 1991.

2-8-207. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 266, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 710, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 195, L. 1991.

2-8-208. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 266, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 710, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

2-8-209. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 195, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 1989.

Part 3
Privatization Plan Review

2-8-301. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" means an office, position, commission, committee, board, department, council, division, bureau, section, or any other entity or instrumentality of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government.

(2) "Private sector" means any entity or individual not principally a part of or associated with a governmental unit that is associated with or involved in commercial activity.

(3) (a) "Privatize" means an agency contracting with the private sector to provide services that are currently or normally conducted directly by the employees of the state.

(b) The term does not include contracting with the private sector to provide services on a temporary or emergency basis.

(4) "Program" means a legislatively or administratively created function, project, or duty of an agency.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 762, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 2005.**

2-8-302. Privatization plan — hearing — role of legislative audit committee — action by governor. (1) Before an agency may privatize a program, it shall prepare a privatization plan as provided in 2-8-303.

(2) The privatization plan must be released to the public and to all unions that represent state employees and must be submitted to the legislative audit committee at least 180 days prior to the proposed implementation date.

(3) At least 90 days prior to the proposed implementation date, the legislative audit committee shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed privatization plan at which public comments and testimony must be received.

(4) At least 45 days prior to the proposed implementation date, the legislative audit committee shall release to the public a summary of the results of the hearing and the findings and conclusions of the legislative audit committee.

(5) (a) At least 30 days prior to the proposed implementation date, the legislative audit committee shall vote to recommend approval or disapproval of the privatization plan to the governor and transmit the recommendation in writing to the governor.

(b) The recommendation of the legislative audit committee is advisory only.

(6) At least 15 days prior to the proposed implementation date, the governor shall approve or disapprove the privatization plan, stating in writing the reasons for approval or disapproval.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 762, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Legislative Audit Committee, Title 5, ch. 13.

2-8-303. Privatization plan — contents. (1) An agency proposing to privatize a program shall prepare a privatization plan that includes the following:

(a) a description of the program to be privatized, including references to the legal authority under which the program was created;

(b) detailed budget information that includes a list of expenditures for the 2 most recent fiscal years and the sources of revenue for the program;

(c) a list of all personnel currently employed in the program and the estimated effect of the proposed privatization on the employment status of each employee affected;

(d) a listing of the assets of the program and their proposed disposition if the plan is implemented;

(e) an estimate of the cost savings or any additional costs resulting from privatizing the program, compared to the costs of the existing, nonprivatized program. Additional costs must include the estimated cost to the state of inspection, supervision, and monitoring of the proposed privatization and the costs incurred in the discontinuation of such a contract.

(f) the estimated current and future economic impacts of the implementation of the plan on other state programs, including public assistance programs, unemployment insurance programs, retirement programs, and agency personal services budgets used to pay out accrued vacation and sick leave benefits;

(g) the estimated increases or decreases in costs and quality of goods or services to the public if the plan is implemented;

(h) the estimated changes in individual wages and benefits resulting from the proposed privatization;

(i) the ways in which the proposed privatization will deliver the same or better services at a lower cost; and

(j) a narrative explanation and justification for the proposed privatization.

(2) To implement the privatization plan, an agency may transfer funds between budget categories.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 762, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 285, L. 2005.**

2-8-304. Review of privatized programs. (1) If during audits of state agencies, the legislative auditor identifies programs being conducted by an agency under contract that may be administered more cost-effectively directly by the agency or identifies services performed by an agency that may be performed more cost-effectively by the private sector, the legislative auditor shall submit this information to the legislative audit committee.

(2) Members of the public, elected bargaining agents or employee representatives, elected officials, legislators, and agency directors may submit to the legislative audit committee a request to review programs being conducted under contract by an agency that may be administered more cost-effectively directly by the agency.

(3) The office of budget and program planning shall submit to the legislative audit committee, by July 1 of each odd-numbered year:

(a) a list of all programs accounted for in an enterprise fund or an internal service fund; and

(b) a request for privatization review under subsection (1) of at least two of the programs identified in subsection (3)(a), including any available information and criteria required under 2-8-303.

(4) The legislative audit committee shall review the information and requests provided under subsections (1) through (3) and may direct the legislative auditor to conduct a review of any contracted program or program administered directly by the agency, or both. The review must include a report to the legislative audit committee that includes the information required in a privatization plan under 2-8-303.

(5) The report required by subsection (4) must be provided to the legislative audit committee and released to the public. Not less than 30 days after the release of the report, the legislative audit committee shall conduct a public hearing on the report at which public comments and testimony must be received. Upon completion of the hearing on the report, the legislative audit committee may make recommendations that it believes appropriate concerning the program.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 762, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 556, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Legislative Audit Committee, Title 5, ch. 13.

Part 4
Procedure for Creating New Professional or Occupational Boards — Review of Existing Boards

2-8-401. Purpose. It is the intent of the legislature to:

(1) exercise the police power of the state through the establishment of licensing boards and licensing programs only when regulation of a profession or occupation benefits the public health, safety, welfare, or common good of the state's residents and that benefit outweighs the potential increased cost to the public and limitation on competition;

(2) recognize those professions or occupations that require specialized skill or training; and

(3) provide the public with a means to determine whether practitioners have met competency standards and to complain if the competency is suspect.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

2-8-402. Intent to create new board. (1) A bill draft request to create a department of labor and industry licensing board or licensing program must include a report that addresses:

(a) how licensing would protect and benefit the public;

(b) how the unregulated practice of the profession or occupation would pose a hazard to public health, safety, or welfare and whether the nature of the profession or occupation makes it difficult for the consumer to evaluate the hazard;

(c) the proposed minimum education, experience, and examination requirements necessary to provide the service, comparative data, and analysis on the licensure of the profession or occupation in other states and whether the proposed requirements are greater, less than, or equal to a national average;

(d) the proposed scope of practice;

(e) a description of any overlapping scopes ofpractice with professions or occupations, whether licensed or not;

(f) an analysis of the impact licensure would have on the type, cost, and availability of services to consumers, the number of providers currently in the market, and other impacts on market conditions;

(g) a description of any licensure exceptions;

(h) existing practitioners and the date by which they would be required to meet proposed qualifications;

(i) a list of other states that license the profession or occupation;

(j) regulatory alternatives other than licensing that are available to the practitioners of the profession or occupation;

(k) previous efforts, if any, to regulate the profession or occupation; and

(l) whether the profession or occupation could be regulated by an existing licensing board or licensing program.

(2) To estimate initial costs, the report must address:

(a) the number of licensees anticipated and a basis for the estimate;

(b) if a licensing board is proposed, the proposed makeup of the licensing board membership; and

(c) the projected annual licensing fees based on information from the department of labor and industry for all costs associated with a licensing board or licensing program of the projected size.

(3) If information is requested of the department of labor and industry in making a report under this section, the department may charge reasonable fees commensurate with the costs of producing the information.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 64, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

2-8-403. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 64, L. 2007.

2-8-404. Interim committee review of licensing boards and programs — criteria — repeal — consolidation. (1) (a) Before January 1 of each even-numbered year, a legislative interim committee responsible for monitoring licensing boards and programs shall notify the department to which licensing boards or programs are administratively attached if the committee plans to review one or more licensing boards or programs to determine the need for a board or a program and the financial solvency or appropriate administrative attachment of the board or program.

(b) A review under subsection (1)(a) is separate from a performance audit conducted by the legislative audit committee.

(2) The focus of a review under subsection (1)(a) is:

(a) to determine whether a board or program continues to be needed to protect public health, safety, or welfare or the common good by addressing the following questions:

(i) does the improper practice of the profession or occupation pose a physical, financial, or emotional threat to public health, safety, or welfare and is there evidence of harm from improper practice; and

(ii) does the practice of the profession or occupation require specific training or skills that make evaluation of competency difficult for the consumer; or

(b) to assess the financial solvency of the board or program and the impact on consumers and on licensees if higher fees are projected for the next biennium.

(3) After the review, the legislative interim committee may draft legislation to:

(a) repeal the board or program if the board or program is no longer needed for public health, safety, or welfare or the common good; or

(b) combine a board with other licensing boards if a board meets the criteria in subsection (2)(a) but has one of the following criteria:

(i) is expected to have higher fees than if the board operates in combination with another board with similar interests;

(ii) has fewer than 200 licensees; or

(iii) has no or a limited number of complaints each year.

(4) The legislative interim committee, after a review of the administrative attachment of a board or program, may propose legislation to administratively attach the board or program to a department that has responsibilities related to the board or program.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 64, L. 2007.

2-8-405. Repeal of licensing board or program law — deposit of fees. (1) If the legislature repeals a licensing board or program law, the department of labor and industry may collect only delinquent licensing fees or fines, if provided by law, on behalf of the repealed licensing board or program. Continuing education and other requirements for maintaining a license cease with the effective date of the repeal.

(2) (a) Fees collected on behalf of a board or program that is proposed to be repealed must be deposited in the state special revenue fund for the use of the board or program.

(b) Fees that are not needed for satisfying debt obligations of the board or program may be used by the department to offset the costs to the department of all boards and programs.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 64, L. 2007.

Part 5
Creation of New Workers' Compensation Exemption

2-8-501. Letter of intent required to create new exemption. (1) A bill draft request to create and list an additional exemption under Title 39, chapter 71, must include a letter of intent not exceeding 1,000 words that addresses the criteria in subsection (2).

(2) The letter of intent must contain a good faith effort to provide the following:

(a) an estimate of the number of employees statewide who would become exempt from coverage under the Workers' Compensation Act;

(b) an estimate of the number of employers statewide who would no longer be required to provide workers' compensation coverage to the exempt workers;

(c) an analysis of which entity would become responsible for the costs of injury;

(d) an analysis of the change in potential liability to an employer if an exempt employee is injured;

(e) an estimate of the reduction in total state payroll for the occupation for which the exemption is being requested; and

(f) an explanation of the possible social costs of allowing the exemption.

(3) The legislative fiscal analyst shall provide to the bill draft requester an independent assessment of the letter of intent.

(4) The department of labor and industry shall provide an independent assessment of the letter of intent regarding information that is within the expertise of that department.

(5) For the purposes of this section, a letter of intent is a public record.

(6) A bill draft request submitted without this letter of intent may not be processed for introduction to the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 9
LIABILITY EXPOSURE AND INSURANCE COVERAGE

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Chapter Cross-References

Crime victim assistance by government — no cause of action against government for damages, 46-24-105.

Part 1
Liability Exposure

2-9-101. Definitions. As used in parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Claim" means any claim against a governmental entity, for money damages only, that any person is legally entitled to recover as damages because of personal injury or property damage caused by a negligent or wrongful act or omission committed by any employee of the governmental entity while acting within the scope of employment, under circumstances where the governmental entity, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant for the damages under the laws of the state. For purposes of this section and the limit of liability contained in 2-9-108, all claims that arise or derive from personal injury to or death of a single person, or damage to property of a person, regardless of the number of persons or entities claiming damages, are considered one claim.

(2) (a) "Employee" means an officer, employee, or servant of a governmental entity, including elected or appointed officials, and persons acting on behalf of the governmental entity in any official capacity temporarily or permanently in the service of the governmental entity whether with or without compensation.

(b) The term does not mean a person or other legal entity while acting in the capacity of an independent contractor under contract to the governmental entity to which parts 1 through 3 apply in the event of a claim.

(3) "Governmental entity" means the state and political subdivisions.

(4) "Personal injury" means any injury resulting from libel, slander, malicious prosecution, or false arrest and any bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death sustained by any person and caused by an occurrence for which the state may be held liable.

(5) "Political subdivision" means any county, city, municipal corporation, school district, special improvement or taxing district, other political subdivision or public corporation, or any entity created by agreement between two or more political subdivisions.

(6) "Property damage" means injury or destruction to tangible property, including loss of use of the property, caused by an occurrence for which the state may be held liable.

(7) "State" means the state of Montana or any office, department, agency, authority, commission, board, institution, hospital, college, university, or other instrumentality of the state.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 380, L. 1973; Sec. 82-4302, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 82-4334 by Sec. 8, Ch. 189, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4334, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4302, 82-4334(3); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 675, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 1985; amd. Secs. 1, 3, Ch. 22, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 262, L. 2015.

2-9-102. Governmental entities liable for torts except as specifically provided by legislature. Every governmental entity is subject to liability for its torts and those of its employees acting within the scope of their employment or duties whether arising out of a governmental or proprietary function except as specifically provided by the legislature under Article II, section 18, of The Constitution of the State of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4310.

Cross-References

State subject to suit, Art. II, sec. 18, Mont. Const.

2-9-103. Actions under invalid law or rule — same as if valid — when. (1) If an officer, agent, or employee of a governmental entity acts in good faith, without malice or corruption, and under the authority of law and that law is subsequently declared invalid as in conflict with the constitution of Montana or the constitution of the United States, that officer, agent, or employee, any other officer, agent, or employee of the represented governmental entity, or the governmental entity is not civilly liable in any action in which the individuals or governmental entity would not have been liable if the law had been valid.

(2) If an officer, agent, or employee of a governmental entity acts in good faith, without malice or corruption, and under the authority of a duly promulgated rule or ordinance and that rule or ordinance is subsequently declared invalid, that officer, agent, or employee, any other officer, agent, or employee of the represented governmental entity, or the governmental entity is not civilly liable in any action in which liability would not attach if the rule or ordinance had been valid.

History: En. 82-4333 by Sec. 7, Ch. 189, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4333; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Requisites for validity of rule, 2-4-305.

2-9-104. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 675, L. 1983.

History: En. 82-4334 by Sec. 8, Ch. 189, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4334(1), (2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 425, L. 1979.

2-9-105. State or other governmental entity immune from exemplary and punitive damages. The state and other governmental entities are immune from exemplary and punitive damages.

History: En. 82-4332 by Sec. 6, Ch. 189, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4332.

Cross-References

Exemplary damages, 27-1-221.

2-9-106. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 22, Sp. L. June 1986.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 675, L. 1983.

2-9-107. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 22, Sp. L. June 1986.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 675, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 389, L. 1985.

2-9-108. Limitation on governmental liability for damages in tort. (1) The state, a county, municipality, taxing district, or any other political subdivision of the state is not liable in tort action for damages suffered as a result of an act or omission of an officer, agent, or employee of that entity in excess of $750,000 for each claim and $1.5 million for each occurrence.

(2) The state, a county, municipality, taxing district, or any other political subdivision of the state is not liable in tort action for damages suffered as a result of negligence of an officer, agent, or employee of that entity by a person while the person was confined in or was otherwise in or on the premises of a correctional or detention institution or facility to serve a sentence imposed upon conviction of a criminal offense. The immunity granted by this subsection does not extend to serious bodily injury or death resulting from negligence or to damages resulting from medical malpractice, gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or an intentional tort. This subsection does not create an exception from the dollar limitations provided for in subsection (1).

(3) An insurer is not liable for excess damages unless the insurer specifically agrees by written endorsement to provide coverage to the governmental agency involved in amounts in excess of a limitation stated in this section, in which case the insurer may not claim the benefits of the limitation specifically waived.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 22, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 1997.

2-9-109 and 2-9-110 reserved.

2-9-111. Immunity from suit for legislative acts and omissions. (1) As used in this section:

(a) the term "governmental entity" means only the state, counties, municipalities, school districts, and any other local government entity or local political subdivision vested with legislative power by statute;

(b) the term "legislative body" means only the legislature vested with legislative power by Article V of The Constitution of the State of Montana and that branch or portion of any other local governmental entity or local political subdivision empowered by law to consider and enact statutes, charters, ordinances, orders, rules, policies, resolutions, or resolves;

(c) (i) the term "legislative act" means:

(A) actions by a legislative body that result in creation of law or declaration of public policy;

(B) other actions of the legislature authorized by Article V of The Constitution of the State of Montana; or

(C) actions by a school board that result in adoption of school board policies pursuant to 20-3-323(1);

(ii) the term legislative act does not include administrative actions undertaken in the execution of a law or public policy.

(2) A governmental entity is immune from suit for a legislative act or omission by its legislative body, or any member or staff of the legislative body, engaged in legislative acts.

(3) Any member or staff of a legislative body is immune from suit for damages arising from the lawful discharge of an official duty associated with legislative acts of the legislative body.

(4) The acquisition of insurance coverage, including self-insurance or group self-insurance, by a governmental entity does not waive the immunity provided by this section.

(5) The immunity provided for in this section does not extend to:

(a) any tort committed by the use of a motor vehicle, aircraft, or other means of transportation; or

(b) any act or omission that results in or contributes to personal injury or property damage caused by contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of surface water or ground water, for which a cause of action exists in statutory or common law or at equity. This subsection (b) does not create a separate or new cause of action.

History: En. 82-4328 by Sec. 2, Ch. 189, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4328; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 818, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 821, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Immunity, Art. V, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

2-9-112. Immunity from suit for judicial acts and omissions. (1) The state and other governmental units are immune from suit for acts or omissions of the judiciary.

(2) A member, officer, or agent of the judiciary is immune from suit for damages arising from the lawful discharge of an official duty associated with judicial actions of the court.

(3) The judiciary includes those courts established in accordance with Article VII of The Constitution of the State of Montana.

History: En. 82-4329 by Sec. 3, Ch. 189, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4329; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-9-113. Immunity from suit for certain gubernatorial actions. The state and the governor are immune from suit for damages arising from the lawful discharge of an official duty associated with vetoing or approving bills or in calling sessions of the legislature.

History: En. 82-4330 by Sec. 4, Ch. 189, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4330.

Cross-References

Special sessions — call by members, Art. V, sec. 6, Mont. Const.; 5-2-103.
Veto power, Art. VI, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Governor's call for special sessions of Legislature, Art. VI, sec. 11, Mont. Const.; 5-2-103.
Action by Governor on bills, Title 5, ch. 4, part 3.

2-9-114. Immunity from suit for certain actions by local elected executives. A local governmental entity and the elected executive officer thereof are immune from suit for damages arising from the lawful discharge of an official duty associated with vetoing or approving ordinances or other legislative acts or in calling sessions of the legislative body.

History: En. 82-4331 by Sec. 5, Ch. 189, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4331.

Part 2
Comprehensive State Insurance Plan

2-9-201. Comprehensive insurance plan for state. (1) The department of administration is responsible for the acquisition and administration of all the insurance purchased for protection of the state, as defined in 2-9-101.

(2) The department of administration shall, after consultation with the departments, agencies, commissions, and other instrumentalities of the state, provide a comprehensive insurance plan for the state providing insurance coverage to the state in amounts determined and set by the department of administration and may purchase, renew, cancel, and modify all policies according to the comprehensive insurance plan. The plan may include property, casualty, liability, crime, fidelity, and any such other policies of insurance as the department of administration may from time to time deem reasonable and prudent.

(3) The department of administration may in its discretion elect to utilize a deductible insurance plan, either wholly or in part.

(4) Only the department of administration may procure insurance under parts 1 through 3 of this chapter except as otherwise provided herein.

(5) All offices, departments, agencies, authorities, commissions, boards, institutions, hospitals, colleges, universities, and other instrumentalities of the state hereafter called state participants shall comply with parts 1 through 3 and the insurance plan developed by the department of administration.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4303, R.C.M. 1947; (4), (5)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 380, L. 1973; Sec. 82-4304, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4303, 82-4304.

Cross-References

Insurance of state buildings and contents, 2-17-104.

2-9-202. Apportionment of costs — creation of deductible reserve. (1) The department of administration shall apportion the costs of all insurance purchased under 2-9-201 to the individual state participants, and the costs must be paid to the department subject to appropriations by the legislature.

(2) The department, if it elects to use a deductible insurance plan, is authorized to charge the individual state participants an amount equal to the cost of a full-coverage insurance plan until such time as a deductible reserve is established. In each subsequent year, the department may charge a sufficient amount over the actual cost of the deductible insurance to replenish the deductible reserves.

(3) The department may accumulate a self-insurance reserve fund sufficient to provide self-insurance for all liability coverages that in its discretion the department considers should be self-insured. Payments into the self-insurance reserve fund must be made from a legislative appropriation for that purpose. Proceeds of the fund must be used by the department to pay claims under parts 1 through 3 of this chapter. Expenditures for actual and necessary expenses required for the efficient administration of the fund must be made from temporary appropriations, as described in 17-7-501(1) or (2), made for that purpose.

(4) Money in reserve funds established under this section that is not needed to meet expected expenditures must be invested and all proceeds of the investment credited to the fund.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 360, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4305; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 703, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 532, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Unified investment program, Title 17, ch. 6, part 2.

2-9-203 through 2-9-210 reserved.

2-9-211. Political subdivision insurance. (1) All political subdivisions of the state may procure insurance separately or jointly with other subdivisions and may elect to use a deductible or self-insurance plan, wholly or in part. Political subdivisions that elect to procure insurance jointly (pooled fund) under this section may obtain excess coverage from a surplus lines insurer without proceeding under the provisions of 33-2-302(2)(a)(ii) and (2)(a)(iii). Political subdivisions that are not in a pooled fund may obtain excess coverage from a surplus lines insurer without proceeding under the provisions of 33-2-302(2)(a)(ii) and (2)(a)(iii) only if the insurer carries an A rating or better by a nationally recognized rating company or is a Lloyd's of London underwriter.

(2) A political subdivision that elects to establish a deductible plan may establish a deductible reserve separately or jointly with other subdivisions.

(3) A political subdivision that elects to establish a self-insurance plan may accumulate a self-insurance reserve fund, separately or jointly with other subdivisions, sufficient to provide self-insurance for all liability coverages that, in its discretion, the political subdivision considers should be self-insured. Payments into the reserve fund must be made from local legislative appropriations for that purpose or from the proceeds of bonds or notes authorized by subsection (5). Proceeds of the fund may be used only to pay claims under parts 1 through 3 of this chapter and for actual and necessary expenses required for the efficient administration of the fund.

(4) Money in reserve funds established under this section not needed to meet expected expenditures must be invested, and all proceeds of the investment must be credited to the fund.

(5) A political subdivision may issue and sell its bonds or notes for purposes of funding a self-insurance or deductible reserve fund and costs incident to the reserve fund in an amount not exceeding 0.18% of the total assessed value of taxable property, determined as provided in 15-8-111, within the political subdivision as of the date of issuance. The bonds or notes must be authorized by resolution of the governing body, are payable from the taxes authorized by 2-9-212, may be sold at public or private sale, do not constitute debt within the meaning of any statutory debt limitation, and may contain other terms and provisions as the governing body determines. Two or more political subdivisions may agree pursuant to an interlocal agreement to exercise their respective borrowing powers under this section jointly and may authorize a joint board created pursuant to the agreement to exercise powers on their behalf.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 360, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4306; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, Sp. L. March 1986; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Unified investment fund — local governments may use, 17-6-204, 17-6-205.

2-9-212. Political subdivision tax levy to pay contributions. (1) Subject to 15-10-420 and subsection (2) of this section, a political subdivision, except for a school district, may levy an annual property tax in the amount necessary to fund the contribution for insurance, deductible reserve fund, and self-insurance reserve fund as authorized in this section and to pay the principal and interest on bonds or notes issued pursuant to 2-9-211(5). For the purposes of this section, "political subdivision" includes a community college district created prior to January 1, 2021.

(2) (a) If a political subdivision makes contributions for group benefits under 2-18-703, the amount in excess of the base contribution as determined under 2-18-703(4)(c) for group benefits under 2-18-703 is not subject to the mill levy calculation limitation provided for in 15-10-420. Levies implemented under this section must be calculated separately from the mill levies calculated under 15-10-420 and are not subject to the inflation factor described in 15-10-420(1)(a).

(i) Contributions for group benefits paid wholly or in part from user charges generated by proprietary funds, as defined by generally accepted accounting principles, are not included in the amount exempted from the mill levy calculation limitation provided for in 15-10-420.

(ii) If tax-billing software is capable, the county treasurer shall list separately the cumulative mill levy or dollar amount on the tax notice sent to each taxpayer under 15-16-101(2). The amount must also be reported to the department of administration pursuant to 7-6-4003. The mill levy must be described as the permissive medical levy.

(b) Each year prior to implementing a levy under subsection (2)(a), after notice of the hearing given under 7-1-2121 or 7-1-4127, a public hearing must be held regarding any proposed increases.

(c) A levy under this section in the previous year may not be included in the amount of property taxes that a governmental entity is authorized to levy for the purposes of determining the amount that the governmental entity may assess under the provisions of 15-10-420(1)(a). When a levy under this section decreases or is no longer levied, the revenue may not be combined with the revenue determined in 15-10-420(1)(a).

(3) (a) For the purposes of this section, "group benefits" means group hospitalization, health, medical, surgical, life, and other similar and related group benefits provided to officers and employees of political subdivisions, including flexible spending account benefits and payments in lieu of group benefits.

(b) The term does not include casualty insurance as defined in 33-1-206, marine insurance as authorized in 33-1-209 and 33-1-221 through 33-1-229, property insurance as defined in 33-1-210, surety insurance as defined in 33-1-211, and title insurance as defined in 33-1-212.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 360, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4309; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 3, Sp. L. March 1986; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 568, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 511, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 351, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Property tax limitation, Title 15, ch. 10, part 4.

2-9-213 through 2-9-219 reserved.

2-9-220. Loss mitigation program — purpose. (1) There is a loss mitigation program administered by the department of administration.

(2) Funds for the program must be used by the department solely for the purpose of mitigating losses generated through claims against the state related to property, automobiles, aviation, and general liability.

(3) An agency seeking funds from the loss mitigation program shall present to the department a written request that:

(a) identifies the risk of loss and potential costs associated with the risk of loss;

(b) identifies matching funds from the agency to address or reduce the risk of loss; and

(c) provides a detailed explanation of how the funds will be spent to mitigate the risk of loss.

(4) Prior to distributing funds for an agency seeking funds from the loss mitigation program, the department of administration shall review the information provided by the agency and confirm the existence of a significant risk of loss to be mitigated with the requested funds.

(5) A distribution over $30,000 for each written request, not including matching funds available to the agency, from the loss mitigation program to a single agency is subject to approval by the office of budget and program planning.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 2015.

Part 3
Claims and Actions

Part Cross-References

Venue of actions against state, county, and political subdivisions, 25-2-126.

2-9-301. Filing of claims against state and political subdivisions — disposition by state agency as prerequisite. (1) All claims against the state arising under the provisions of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter must be presented in writing to the department of administration.

(2) A complaint based on a claim subject to the provisions of subsection (1) may not be filed in district court unless the claimant has first presented the claim to the department of administration and the department has finally denied the claim. The department must grant or deny the claim in writing within 120 days after the claim is presented to the department. The failure of the department to make final disposition of a claim within 120 days after it is presented to the department must be considered a final denial of the claim for purposes of this subsection. Upon the department's receipt of the claim, the statute of limitations on the claim is tolled for 120 days. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to claims that may be asserted under Title 25, chapter 20, by third-party complaint, cross-claim, or counterclaim.

(3) All claims against a political subdivision arising under the provisions of parts 1 through 3 shall be presented to and filed with the clerk or secretary of the political subdivision.

History: (1)En. Sec. 11, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 360, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4311, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 360, L. 1977; Sec. 82-4312, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4311, 82-4312; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 507, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 494, L. 1991.

2-9-302. Time for filing — limitation of actions. A claim against the state or a political subdivision is subject to the limitation of actions provided by law.

History: **En. 82-4312.1 by Sec. 7, Ch. 360, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4312.1.**

Cross-References

Statutes of limitations, Title 27, ch. 2.

2-9-303. Compromise or settlement of claim against state. (1) (a) The department of administration may compromise and settle any claim allowed by parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, subject to the terms of insurance, if any. A settlement from the self-insurance reserve fund or deductible reserve fund exceeding $10,000 must be approved by the district court of the first judicial district except when suit has been filed in another judicial district, in which case the presiding judge shall approve the compromise settlement.

(b) All records related to a compromise or settlement of a claim against the state must be retained for a period of 20 years.

(2) (a) All terms, conditions, and details of the governmental portion of a compromise or settlement agreement entered into or approved pursuant to subsection (1) are public records available for public inspection unless a right of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

(b) Unless the state or its entities pay nothing to resolve a claim, the compromise or settlement agreement must include a description of the alleged acts, omissions, or other basis of liability at issue.

(3) An employee who is a party to a compromise or settlement entered into or approved pursuant to subsection (1) may waive the right of individual privacy and allow the state to release all records or details of the compromise or settlement, such as personnel records, that pertain to the employee personally and that would otherwise be protected by the right of individual privacy subject to the merits of public disclosure.

History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 360, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4319; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 97, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 306, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 511, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Right to examine documents of public bodies, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

2-9-304. Compromise or settlement of claim against political subdivision. (1) The governing body of each political subdivision, after conferring with its legal officer or counsel, may compromise and settle any claim allowed by parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, subject to the terms of insurance, if any.

(2) All terms, conditions, and details of the governmental portion of a compromise or settlement agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (1) are public records available for public inspection unless a right of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

(3) An employee who is a party to a compromise or settlement entered into or approved pursuant to subsection (1) may waive the right of individual privacy and allow the state to release all records or details of the compromise or settlement, such as personnel records, that pertain to the employee personally and that would otherwise be protected by the right of individual privacy subject to the merits of public disclosure.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 360, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4318; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 111, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 172, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 306, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

Right to examine documents of public bodies, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Principal's responsibility for agent's negligence, 28-10-602.
Indemnity, Title 28, ch. 11, part 3.

2-9-305. Immunization, defense, and indemnification of employees. (1) It is the purpose of this section to provide for the immunization, defense, and indemnification of public officers and employees civilly sued for their actions taken within the course and scope of their employment.

(2) In any noncriminal action brought against any employee of a state, county, city, town, or other governmental entity for a negligent act, error, or omission, including alleged violations of civil rights pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1983, or other actionable conduct of the employee committed while acting within the course and scope of the employee's office or employment, the governmental entity employer, except as provided in subsection (6), shall defend the action on behalf of the employee and indemnify the employee.

(3) Upon receiving service of a summons and complaint in a noncriminal action against an employee, the employee shall give written notice to the employee's supervisor requesting that a defense to the action be provided by the governmental entity employer. If the employee is an elected state official or other employee who does not have a supervisor, the employee shall give notice of the action to the legal officer or agency of the governmental entity defending the entity in legal actions of that type. Except as provided in subsection (6), the employer shall offer a defense to the action on behalf of the employee. The defense may consist of a defense provided directly by the employer. The employer shall notify the employee, within 15 days after receipt of notice, whether a direct defense will be provided. If the employer refuses or is unable to provide a direct defense, the defendant employee may retain other counsel. Except as provided in subsection (6), the employer shall pay all expenses relating to the retained defense and pay any judgment for damages entered in the action that may be otherwise payable under this section.

(4) In any noncriminal action in which a governmental entity employee is a party defendant, the employee must be indemnified by the employer for any money judgments or legal expenses, including attorney fees either incurred by the employee or awarded to the claimant, or both, to which the employee may be subject as a result of the suit unless the employee's conduct falls within the exclusions provided in subsection (6).

(5) Recovery against a governmental entity under the provisions of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter constitutes a complete bar to any action or recovery of damages by the claimant, by reason of the same subject matter, against the employee whose negligence or wrongful act, error, omission, or other actionable conduct gave rise to the claim. In an action against a governmental entity, the employee whose conduct gave rise to the suit is immune from liability by reasons of the same subject matter if the governmental entity acknowledges or is bound by a judicial determination that the conduct upon which the claim is brought arises out of the course and scope of the employee's employment, unless the claim constitutes an exclusion provided in subsections (6)(b) through (6)(d).

(6) In a noncriminal action in which a governmental entity employee is a party defendant, the employee may not be defended or indemnified by the employer for any money judgments or legal expenses, including attorney fees, to which the employee may be subject as a result of the suit if a judicial determination is made that:

(a) the conduct upon which the claim is based constitutes oppression, fraud, or malice or for any other reason does not arise out of the course and scope of the employee's employment;

(b) the conduct of the employee constitutes a criminal offense as defined in Title 45, chapters 4 through 7;

(c) the employee compromised or settled the claim without the consent of the government entity employer; or

(d) the employee failed or refused to cooperate reasonably in the defense of the case.

(7) If a judicial determination has not been made applying the exclusions provided in subsection (6), the governmental entity employer may determine whether those exclusions apply. However, if there is a dispute as to whether the exclusions of subsection (6) apply and the governmental entity employer concludes that it should clarify its obligation to the employee arising under this section by commencing a declaratory judgment action or other legal action, the employer is obligated to provide a defense or assume the cost of the defense of the employee until a final judgment is rendered in that action holding that the employer did not have an obligation to defend the employee. The governmental entity employer does not have an obligation to provide a defense to the employee in a declaratory judgment action or other legal action brought against the employee by the employer under this subsection.

History: (1)En. 82-4322.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1974; Sec. 82-4322.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2) thru (4)En. Sec. 23, Ch. 380, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 239, L. 1974; Sec. 82-4323, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4322.1, 82-4323; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 530, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Damages and costs awarded against government officer to be recovered from governing entity employing officer, 27-26-403.

2-9-306. Construction of policy conditions — customary exclusions. Any insurance policy, rider, or endorsement issued and purchased after July 1, 1973, to insure against any risk which may arise as a result of the application of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter which contains any condition or provision not in compliance with the requirements of parts 1 through 3 shall not be rendered invalid thereby but shall be construed and applied in accordance with such conditions and provisions as would have applied had such policy, rider, or endorsement been in full compliance with parts 1 through 3, provided the policy is otherwise valid. This section may not be construed to prohibit any such insurance policy, rider, or endorsements from containing standard and customary exclusions of coverages that the department of administration considers reasonable and prudent upon considering the availability and the cost of such insurance coverages.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 380, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4308; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 184, L. 1979.

2-9-307 through 2-9-310 reserved.

2-9-311. Jurisdiction of district court — rules of procedure. The district court shall have jurisdiction over any action brought under parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, and such actions shall be governed by the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure insofar as they are consistent with such parts.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 380, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4320.

Cross-References

Venue of actions against state, county, and political subdivisions, 25-2-126.

2-9-312. Renumbered 25-2-126(1) and (3). Sec. 18(2), Ch. 432, L. 1985.

2-9-313. Service of process on state. In all actions against the state arising under this chapter, the state must be named the defendant and the summons and complaint must be served on the director of the department of administration in addition to service required by Rule 4(l), M.R.Civ.P. The state shall serve an answer within 40 days after service of the summons and complaint.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 380, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4322; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 604, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1993.

2-9-314. Court approval of attorney fees. (1) When an attorney represents or acts on behalf of a claimant or any other party on a tort claim against the state or a political subdivision of the state, the attorney shall file with the claim a copy of the contract of employment showing specifically the terms of the fee arrangement between the attorney and the claimant.

(2) The district court may regulate the amount of the attorney fees in any tort claim against the state or a political subdivision of the state. In regulating the amount of the fees, the court shall consider the time the attorney was required to spend on the case, the complexity of the case, and any other relevant matter the court may consider appropriate.

(3) Attorney fees regulated under this section must be made a part of the court record and are open to the public.

(4) If an attorney violates a provision of this section, a rule of court adopted under this section, or an order fixing attorney fees under this section, the attorney forfeits the right to any fees that the attorney may have collected or been entitled to collect.

History: En. 82-4316.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4316.1; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-9-315. Recovery from appropriations if no insurance. In the event no insurance has been procured by the state to pay a claim or judgment arising under the provisions of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, the claim or judgment shall be paid from the next appropriation of the state instrumentality whose tortious conduct gave rise to the claim.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 380, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4325.

2-9-316. Judgments against governmental entities. A political subdivision of the state shall satisfy a final judgment or settlement out of funds that may be available from the following sources:

(1) insurance;

(2) the general fund or any other funds legally available to the governing body;

(3) a property tax, otherwise properly authorized by law, collected by a special levy authorized by law, in an amount necessary to pay any unpaid portion of the judgment or settlement;

(4) proceeds from the sale of bonds issued by a county, city, or school district for the purpose of deriving revenue for the payment of the judgment or settlement liability. The governing body

of a county, city, or school district may issue bonds pursuant to procedures established by law. Property taxes may be levied to amortize the bonds.

History: **En. 82-4335 by Sec. 10, Ch. 360, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4335(1); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 213, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 574, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Authority of county to issue general obligation bonds to satisfy judgments, 7-7-2202.
Municipal general obligation bonds, Title 7, ch. 7, part 42.
School bonds for funding judgment against school district, 20-9-403.
Actions arising from seizure or sale of property for taxes, 27-2-210.

2-9-317. No interest if judgment paid within two years — exception. Except as provided in 18-1-404(1)(b), if a governmental entity pays a judgment within 2 years after the day on which the judgment is entered, no penalty or interest may be assessed against the governmental entity.

History: **En. 82-4335 by Sec. 10, Ch. 360, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4335(2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Amount of interest payable on judgments, 25-9-205.
Interest on recovery of damages, 27-1-211 through 27-1-214.

2-9-318. Attachment and execution. No levy of attachment or writ of execution shall issue against any property of a governmental entity for the security or collection of any claim or judgment against any governmental entity under parts 1 through 3 of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 380, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4327.**

Cross-References

Execution of judgment, Title 25, ch. 13.
Prejudgment attachment, Title 27, ch. 18.

2-9-319. Government entity — prohibitions on lawsuits related to firearms or manufacturers. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a government entity may not bring suit against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association, or seller for recovery of damages resulting from, or injunctive relief or abatement of a nuisance relating to, the lawful design, manufacture, marketing, or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public.

(2) Nothing in this section prohibits a government entity from bringing an action against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association, or seller for recovery of damages for:

(a) breach of contract or warranty as to firearms or ammunition purchased by a government entity; or

(b) damage or harm to property owned or leased by the government entity caused by a defective firearm or ammunition.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 210, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 4 reserved

Part 5
General Provisions Related to Official Bonds

2-9-501. Application — bonds excepted. The provisions of this part apply to the official bond of any executor, administrator, or guardian or to the bond or undertaking of any person when by law a bond or undertaking is required, except county, town, or township officers and state officers and employees.

History: **En. Sec. 1084, Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 7, p. 82, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 412, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 503, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 503, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 134, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 177, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 6-331; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Suretyship — generally, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4; Title 33, ch. 26.

2-9-502. Bonds of deputies. Every officer or body appointing a deputy, clerk, or subordinate officer may require an official bond to be given by the person appointed and may fix the amount thereof.

History: **En. Sec. 1088, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 416, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 507, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 985; re-en. Sec. 507, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 6-335.**

2-9-503. Bond of appointee. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy, before entering upon the duties of the office, must give a bond corresponding in substance and form with the bond required of the officer originally elected or appointed, as herein provided.

History: En. Sec. 1074, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 402, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 493, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 971; re-en. Sec. 493, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 6-324.

2-9-504. Conditions, form, and signatures. (1) The condition of an official bond must be that the principal shall well, truly, and faithfully perform all official duties required of the principal by law and also any additional duties that may be imposed on the principal by any law of the state subsequently enacted and that the principal will account for, pay over, and deliver to the person or officer entitled to receive all money or other property that the principal receives as an officer.

(2) The principal and sureties upon an official bond are liable for the neglect, default, or misconduct in office of any deputy, clerk, or employee appointed or employed by the principal.

(3) Official bonds must be signed and executed by the principal and two or more sureties or by the principal and one or more surety companies organized under the laws of this state or licensed to do business in this state.

(4) Official bonds must be joint and several and made payable to the state of Montana in the amount and with the conditions required by this part or the law creating or regulating the duties of the office.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 1057, Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 2, p. 79, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 384, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 475, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 954; re-en. Sec. 475, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-306, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 1061, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 388, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 479, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 958; re-en. Sec. 479, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-310, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-306, 6-310; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Suretyship — generally, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4; Title 33, ch. 26.

2-9-505. Bonds of receivers, assignees — payable to state. All bonds or undertakings given by trustees, receivers, assignees, or officers of a court in an action or proceeding for the faithful discharge of their duties, where it is not otherwise provided, must be in the name of and payable to the state and, upon the order of the court where such action or proceeding is pending, may be prosecuted for the benefit of any and all interested therein.

History: En. Sec. 1085, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 413, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 504, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 982; re-en. Sec. 504, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 6-332.

2-9-506. Approval, filing, record, and custody. (1) The approval of every official bond must be endorsed thereon and signed by the officer approving the same. No officer with whom any official bond is required to be filed must file such bond until approved.

(2) Every official bond must be filed in the proper office within the time prescribed for filing the oath unless otherwise expressly provided by statute.

(3) Official bonds must be recorded in a book kept for the purpose and entitled "Record of Official Bonds".

(4) Every officer with whom official bonds are filed must carefully keep and preserve the same and give certified copies thereof to any person demanding the same upon being paid the same fees as are allowable by law for certified copies of papers in other cases.

History: (1)Ap. p. Sec. 1055, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 382, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 473, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 952; re-en. Sec. 473, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-304, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 1056, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 383, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 474, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 953; re-en. Sec. 474, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-305, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1050, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 377, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 468, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 947; re-en. Sec. 468, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-301, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1054, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 381, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 472, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 951; re-en. Sec. 472, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-303, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 1060, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 387, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 478, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 957; re-en. Sec. 478, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-309, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-301, 6-303, 6-304, 6-305, 6-309.

2-9-507. Sureties' qualifications. (1) The individual sureties on all official bonds shall justify, before an officer authorized to administer oaths, by an affidavit to the effect that they are residents and householders or freeholders within the state and that each is worth the sum for which the individual becomes surety in the bond over and above the individual's just debts and liabilities, exclusive of property exempt from execution.

(2) A surety company or corporation organized under or that has complied with the laws of this state and that has been duly licensed to do business in this state may not be required to

justify as a surety. A company or corporation may not be accepted as a surety in a case when its liabilities exceed its assets, as ascertained in the manner provided by law.

(3) A member of the board of county commissioners may not be accepted as a surety upon the official bond of any county, township, or school district officer in the commissioner's county, and a county officer may not be a surety upon the official bond of any other county officer.

History: **En. Sec. 1058, Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 3, p. 80, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 385, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 476, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 955; re-en. Sec. 476, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 6-307; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

2-9-508 through 2-9-510 reserved.

2-9-511. Extent of sureties' liability — when less than full. (1) An official bond executed by any officer pursuant to law is in force and obligatory upon the principal and sureties for any and all breaches of the conditions of the bond committed during the time the officer continues to discharge any of the duties of or hold the office and whether the breaches are committed or suffered by the principal officer or the officer's deputy or clerk.

(2) A surety bond is in force and obligatory upon the principal and sureties for the faithful discharge of all duties that may be required of the officer by any law enacted subsequently to the execution of the bond, and that condition must be expressed in the bond.

(3) When the penal sum of a bond required to be given amounts to more than $1,000, the sureties may become severally liable for portions not less than $500, making in the aggregate a liability of double the amount named as the penal sum of the bond. If a bond is forfeited, an action may be brought on the bond against any or all of the obligors and judgment may be entered against them, either jointly or severally, as they may be liable. The judgment may not be entered against a surety severally bound for a greater sum than that for which the surety is specially liable by the terms of the bond. Each surety is liable to contribute to the cosureties in proportion to the amount for which the surety is liable.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 1062, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 389, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 480, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 959; re-en. Sec. 480, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-311, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1063, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 390, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 481, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 960; re-en. Sec. 481, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-312, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1059, Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, p. 112, L. 1897; amd. Sec. 4, p. 80, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 386, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 477, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 956; re-en. Sec. 477, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-308, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-308, 6-311, 6-312; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Extent of surety's liability, 28-11-411.

2-9-512. Defects not to affect liability. (1) If an official bond does not contain the substantial matter or conditions required by law or there are any defects in the approval or filing of the bond, it is not void so as to discharge the officer and sureties. The sureties are equitably bound to the state or party interested, and the state or the party may, by action in any court of competent jurisdiction, suggest the defect in the bond, approval, or filing and recover the proper and equitable demand or damages from the officer and the persons who intended to become and were included as sureties in the bond.

(2) An official bond entered into by an officer or a bond, recognizance, or written undertaking taken by an officer in the discharge of the duties of office is not void for want of form, substance, recital, or condition or the principal or surety be discharged. The principal and surety must be bound by the bond, recognizance, or written undertaking to the full extent contemplated by the law requiring the bond and the sureties to the amount specified in the bond, recognizance, or written undertaking. In all actions on a defective bond, recognizance, or written undertaking, the plaintiff or relator may suggest the defect in the complaint and recover to the same extent as if the bond, recognizance, or written undertaking were perfect in all respects.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 1066, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 393, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 484, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 963; re-en. Sec. 484, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-315, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1907; re-en. Sec. 394, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 485, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 485, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-316, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-315, 6-316; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

2-9-513. Insufficiency of sureties — action to vacate office. (1) Whenever it is shown by the affidavit of a credible witness or otherwise comes to the knowledge of the court, judge, board, person, or body whose duty it is to approve the official bond of any officer that one or more sureties on a bond given pursuant to the provisions of this part have, since the bond was approved, died, left the state, become insolvent, or from any other cause have become incompetent or insufficient sureties on the bond, the court, judge, board, officer, or other person may issue a citation to the officer requiring the officer on a day named in the citation, not less than 5 or more than 10 days after the citation was issued, to appear and show cause why the office should not be vacated. The citation must be served and the return of the citation must be made as in other cases.

(2) If the officer fails to appear and show good cause why the office should not be vacated on the day named or fails to give ample additional security, the court, judge, board, officer, or other person shall make an order vacating the office. The office must be filled as provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 1067; Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 5, p. 81, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 395, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 486, R.C.M. 1921. Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 964; re-en. Sec. 486, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 6-317; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

State vacancies in office, 2-16-501.
County vacancies in office, 7-4-2106, 7-4-2206.
Municipal vacancies in office, 7-4-4112.

2-9-514. Additional security. (1) The additional bond given pursuant to 2-9-513(2) must be in the penalty directed by the court, judge, board, officer, or other person and in all other respects similar to the original bond and approved by and filed with the same officer as required in case of the approval and filing of the original bond.

(2) Each additional bond filed and approved is of like force and obligation upon the principal and sureties from the time of its execution and subjects the officer and the sureties to the same liabilities, suits, and actions that are prescribed respecting the original bonds of officers.

(3) The original bond is not discharged or affected when an additional bond has been given, but the original bond remains of the same force and obligation as if the additional bond had not been given.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 1068, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 396, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 487, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 965; re-en. Sec. 487, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-318, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1069, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 397, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 488, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 966; re-en. Sec. 488, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-319, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-318, 6-319; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-9-515. Additional security — liability of officers and sureties. The officer and the officer's sureties are liable to any party injured by the breach of any condition of an official bond, after the execution of the additional bond, upon either or both bonds. The injured party may bring an action upon either bond or may bring separate actions on the bonds respectively. The injured party may allege the same cause of action and may recover judgment in each suit.

History: En. Sec. 1070, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 398, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 489, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 967; re-en. Sec. 489, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 6-320; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-9-516. Separate judgments. If separate judgments are recovered on the surety bonds by an injured party for the same cause of action, the injured party is entitled to have execution issued on the judgments respectively but the injured party may collect, by execution or otherwise, only the amount actually adjudged on the same causes of action in one of the suits, together with the costs of both suits.

History: En. Sec. 1071, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 399, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 490, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 968; re-en. Sec. 490, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 6-321; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-9-517. Contribution between sureties. Whenever the sureties on either bond have been compelled to pay any sum of money on account of the principal obligor therein, they are entitled to recover in any court of competent jurisdiction of the sureties on the remaining bond a distributive part of the sum thus paid in the proportion which the penalties of such bonds bear one to the other and to the sums thus paid, respectively.

History: En. Sec. 1072, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 400, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 491, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 969; re-en. Sec. 491, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 6-322.

2-9-518 through 2-9-520 reserved.

2-9-521. Discharge of sureties. Whenever any sureties on the official bond of any officer wish to be discharged from their liability, they and such officer may procure the same to be done if such officer will execute a new bond in accordance with the provisions of this part in like form, penalty, and conditions, and to be approved and filed as the original bond. Upon the filing and approval of the new bond, such first sureties are exonerated from all further liability, but their bond remains in full force as to all liabilities incurred previous to the approval of such new bond. The liability of the principal and surety or sureties in such new bond is in all respects the same and may be enforced in like manner as the liability of the principal and sureties of the original bond.

History: En. Sec. 1073, Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 6, p. 81, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 401, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 492, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 970; re-en. Sec. 492, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947; 6-323.

2-9-522. Release of sureties. Any surety on the official bond of any county, city, town, or township officer or on the official bond of any executor, administrator, guardian or on the bond or undertaking of any person where by law a bond or undertaking is required may be released from all liability thereon accruing from and after proper proceedings had therefor, as provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 1075, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 403, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 494, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 972; re-en. Sec. 494, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 177, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 6-325.

2-9-523. Proceedings to obtain release. (1) A surety desiring to be released from liability on the bond of any county or township officer shall file a statement in writing, duly subscribed by the surety or someone on the surety's behalf setting forth the name and office of the bonded person, the amount for which the surety is liable, and the surety's desire to be released from further liability on account of the bond.

(2) A notice containing the object of the statement must be served personally on the principal unless the principal has left the state or the principal's whereabouts cannot after due and diligent search and inquiry be ascertained, in which case the notice may be served by publication once a week for four successive publications in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county where the bond is filed on record. The statement, except when the county clerk and recorder or county commissioners are principals, must be filed with the county clerk and recorder. When the county clerk and recorder or county commissioners are principals, the statement must be filed with the district court judge.

(3) A surety desiring to be released from liability on the bond of any city or town officer shall file and serve a similar statement with the city or town clerk or mayor.

(4) A surety desiring to be released from an executor's, administrator's, or guardian's bond or undertaking shall file and serve a similar statement with the proper officer, person, or authority with whom the bond is filed on record.

(5) All statements provided for in this section must be served personally on the principal as provided in this section if the principal can be found for service in the state. If the principal cannot be found in the state, the principal may be served by publication in a newspaper as provided in subsection (2) or, if a newspaper is not published in that county, then in a newspaper published in an adjoining county, without any order from any court or other authority. In all cases for which publication is provided, a printed or written notice posted in at least 10 conspicuous places in the county for the time specified for publication of the notice is considered legal notice.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 134, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 177, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 6-326; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-9-524. Amount of new bond — failure to file. (1) Whenever a statement is filed or filed and served as provided in this part, the proper authority shall prescribe the penalty or amount in which a new or additional bond or undertaking must be filed unless already provided by statute. If an order is not made, the new or additional bond or undertaking must be executed for the same amount as the original.

(2) If an officer or person fails to file a new or additional bond or undertaking within 20 days from the date of personal service or within 40 days from the date of the first publication or posting of notice as provided in this part, the office or appointment of the person or officer becomes vacant and the officer or person forfeits the office or appointment. The office or position must be filled as in other cases of vacancy and in the manner provided by law.

(3) The person applying to be released from liability on the bond or undertaking may not be held liable on the bond after the date provided for vacating and forfeiting of the office or appointment.

History: En. Secs. 3, 5, Ch. 134, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 6-327, 6-329; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-9-525. Liability of sureties when new bond is given. In case a new or additional undertaking be filed, the sureties on the original undertaking not asking to be released and on the new or additional bond or undertaking shall be and continue liable for the official acts of such officer or person, jointly and severally, the same as if all were sureties on one and the same instrument. This shall not be deemed to provide retroactive liability on the new surety.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 134, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 6-328.

2-9-526. Effect of discharge of sureties. No surety must be released from damages or liabilities for acts, omissions, or causes existing or which arose before discharge of the surety as hereinbefore provided, but such legal proceedings may be had therefor in all respects as though no such discharge had been had.

History: En. Sec. 1083, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 411, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 502, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 980; re-en. Sec. 502, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 134, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 6-330.

2-9-527. Suit on bonds. (1) An official bond executed by any officer pursuant to law is in force and obligatory upon the principal and sureties to and for the state and to and for the use and benefit of all persons who may be injured or aggrieved by the wrongful act or default of the officer in the officer's official capacity. A person injured or aggrieved may bring suit on the bond in the person's own name.

(2) A bond is not void on the first recovery of a judgment on the bond. Suit may be brought from time to time and judgment recovered on the bond by the state or by any person to whom a right of action has accrued against the officer and the sureties until the whole penalty of the bond is exhausted.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1064, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 391, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 482, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 961; re-en. Sec. 482, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-313, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1065, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 392, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 483, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 962; re-en. Sec. 483, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-314, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-313, 6-314; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-9-528. Lien on real estate of surety — action to compel specific performance. (1) When an action is commenced in any court in this state, for the benefit to the state, to enforce the penalty of or to recover money upon an official bond or obligation or any bond or obligation executed in favor of the state of Montana or of the people of this state, the attorney or other person prosecuting the action may file with the clerk of the court in which the action is commenced an affidavit stating either positively or on information and belief that the bond or obligation was executed by the defendant or one or more of the defendants (designating whom) and made payable to the people of the state or to the state and that the defendant or defendants have real estate or some interest in land (designating the county or counties in which the land is situated) and that the action is prosecuted for the benefit of the state. The clerk of the court receiving the affidavit shall certify to the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the real estate is situated the names of the parties to the action, the name of the court in which the action is pending, and the amount claimed in the complaint, along with the date of the commencement of the suit.

(2) Upon receiving the certificate, the county clerk and recorder shall endorse upon the certificate the time of its receipt. The certificate must be filed in the same manner as notices of the pendency of action affecting real estate. Any judgment recovered in the action is a lien upon all real estate belonging to the defendant situated in any county in which the certificate is filed or to one or more of the defendants, for the amount the owner of the real estate is or may be liable upon the judgment, from the filing of this certificate.

(3) In any action to compel the specific performance of an agreement to sell real estate affected by the lien created by the filing of the certificate referred to in subsection (2), which agreement was made prior to the filing of the certificate but the purchase price of the real estate is not due until after the filing of the certificate, the judge of the district court in which the action for specific performance is tried shall, if the purchaser is otherwise entitled to specific performance of the agreement, order the purchaser to pay the purchase price or as much of the purchase price that may be due to the state treasurer, taking the state treasurer's receipt for the payment. Upon payment, the purchaser is entitled to enforce the specific performance of the agreement and take the real estate free from the liens created by the filing of the certificate. The money paid to the state treasurer must be held pending the litigation mentioned in the certificate and subject to the lien created by the filing of the certificate. If judgment is recovered

against the defendant, the state treasurer in the treasurer's settlement shall pay to the county treasurer the amount due the county.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1086, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 414, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 505, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 983; re-en. Sec. 505, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-333, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1087, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 415, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 506, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 984; re-en. Sec. 506, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-334, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1090, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 418, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 509, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 987; re-en. Sec. 509, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 6-337, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-333, 6-334, 6-337; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Judgment liens, 25-9-301.

Part 6
Bonds of State Officers and Employees

Part Cross-References

Guaranty, indemnity, and suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11.
Suretyship, Title 33, ch. 26.

2-9-601. Definition. As used in this part, the term "state officers and employees" does not include notaries public, supreme court justices, district court judges, or members and employees of the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 6-105(part).

2-9-602. Officers and employees to be bonded — coverage, form, amount. (1) All state officers and employees shall be bonded.

(2) A bond may cover an individual officer or employee or group of officers and employees. The form of all bonds shall be prescribed by the department of administration, subject to the approval of the attorney general.

(3) Before determining the amount for which a state officer or employee shall be bonded, the department of administration shall consult with the head of the institution or agency involved and the head of the agency responsible for the examination or post auditing of state agencies. The amount for which a state officer or employee shall be bonded shall be based on the amount of money or property handled and the opportunity for defalcation.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 6-105, R.C.M. 1947; (3) En. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 6-106, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-105(part), 6-106(part).

2-9-603. Purchase. (1) The department of administration shall purchase all surety bonds for state officers and employees.

(2) All bonds shall be purchased by competitive bid.

(3) Bonds purchased by the department of administration shall be executed by responsible insurance or surety companies admitted and authorized to execute surety bonds in this state.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 6-105, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 6-106, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 6-107, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-105(part), 6-106(part), 6-107.

2-9-604. Proration of bond premiums. (1) The department of administration shall prorate the premiums for bonds covering more than one state agency or institution among the state agencies and institutions whose officers and employees are covered. Such proration shall be based on the risk of bonding the officers and employees of each agency or institution.

(2) The department of administration shall order payment of the prorated amount from moneys which are available to such agencies or institutions for the payment of general administrative expenses.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 6-108.

Part 7
Bonds of County Officers and Employees

2-9-701. County officers and employees to be bonded. (1) All elected and appointed county officers and employees must be bonded for the faithful performance of all official duties required by law.

(2) A bond may cover an individual officer or employee, or a blanket bond may cover all officers and employees or any group or combination of county officers and employees.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, 6, 7, Ch. 68, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 6-203(part), 6-204(part), 6-208, 6-209; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 209, L. 2005.

2-9-702. Amount. The amount for which a county officer or employee must be bonded must be based on the amount of money or property handled and the opportunity for defalcation.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 68, L. 1967; Sec. 6-204, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 68, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 213, L. 1975; Sec. 6-205, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-204(part), 6-205; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 179, L. 1995.

2-9-703. Purchase. (1) The board of county commissioners shall purchase all surety bonds for county officers and employees.

(2) Bonds purchased by the board of county commissioners must be executed by responsible insurance or surety companies authorized and admitted to execute surety bonds in this state or by a self-insurance pool insuring counties as authorized by 2-9-211.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, 4, Ch. 68, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 6-203(part), 6-204(part), 6-206; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 209, L. 2005.

2-9-704. Premiums charged against budgets. The premiums for all surety company bonds shall be a proper charge against the budgets of the county general fund or against the budget or budgets of those county funds where the officer or employee renders service.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 68, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 6-207.

2-9-705 through 2-9-710 reserved.

2-9-711. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 209, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 431, p. 130, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 591, p. 156, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 516, p. 176, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 516, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 533, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1898, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7191, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9824, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1055; re-en. Sec. 9824, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-8709.

Part 8

Bonds of City Officers and Employees

2-9-801. Application to commission and commission-manager forms of government. This part applies to the bonding of all elected or appointed officers and employees under the commission form of city government and to the commission-manager form of city government.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 67, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 6-608.

2-9-802. Bonds — amount. All elected or appointed city or town officers and employees must be bonded in the amount required by ordinance. The amount for which a city or town officer or employee must be bonded must be based on the amount of money or property handled and the opportunity for defalcation.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 67, L. 1967; Sec. 6-602, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 67, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 213, L. 1975; Sec. 6-603, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 6-602(part), 6-603; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 179, L. 1995.

2-9-803. City and town officers and employees to be bonded. (1) A bond may cover an individual officer or employee or a blanket bond may cover all officers and employees or any group or combination of officers and employees.

(2) All elected and appointed city or town officers or employees must be bonded for the faithful performance of all official duties required by law.

History: En. Secs. 1, 5, 6, Ch. 67, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 6-601(part), 6-605, 6-606; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 209, L. 2005.

2-9-804. Purchase — responsible surety. (1) The city or town council or commissioners shall purchase all surety bonds for city officers and employees.

(2) Bonds purchased by the city or town council or commission must be executed by responsible insurance or surety companies authorized and admitted to execute surety bonds in this state or by a self-insurance pool insuring cities or towns as authorized under 2-9-211.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, 4, Ch. 67, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 6-601(part), 6-602(part), 6-604; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 209, L. 2005.

2-9-805. Premiums — charge against budget. The premiums for all surety company bonds shall be a proper charge against the budget or budgets of the city or town general fund or against the budget or budgets of those city or town funds where the officer or employee renders service.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 67, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 6-607.**

Part 9
Limitations on Liability Relating to Covid-19

2-9-901. *(Temporary)* **Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Covid-19" means the novel coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 or a virus mutating from it, and conditions associated with the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 or a virus mutating from it.

(2) "Government entity" means the state and political subdivisions, including but not limited to:

(a) political subdivisions as defined in 2-9-101(5);

(b) the legislature, legislative committees, and legislators acting in their official capacity; and

(c) employees of the state or a political subdivision.

(3) "Health care provider" means a health care professional, whether the health care professional works for a health care provider or a government health care provider, health care facility, home health care facility, assisted living facility, or any other person or facility otherwise authorized or permitted by any federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance to administer health care services or treatment.

(4) "Person" means an individual, corporation, nonprofit corporation, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, business or similar trust, association, joint venture, place of worship, personal representative, trustee, government entity, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(5) "Premises" includes any real property and any appurtenant building or structure, as well as any other location, vehicle, or place serving a commercial, residential, educational, religious, governmental, cultural, charitable, or health care purpose.

(6) "Public health guidance" includes guidance related to covid-19 issued by the following:

(a) the centers for disease control and prevention of the United States department of health and human services;

(b) the centers for medicare and medicaid services of the United States department of health and human services;

(c) the federal occupational safety and health administration;

(d) the office of the governor;

(e) a state agency, including the Montana department of public health and human services; or

(f) a local government, including a local government health department or local government board of health. *(Terminates December 31, 2031—sec. 12, Ch. 516, L. 2021.)*

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 516, L. 2021.**

2-9-902. *(Temporary)* **Liability.** Except as provided in 2-9-903 through 2-9-906, a government entity is not liable for civil damages for injuries or death from or relating to exposure or potential exposure to covid-19 unless the civil action involves an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, or intentional tort. *(Terminates December 31, 2031—sec. 12, Ch. 516, L. 2021.)*

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 2021.**

2-9-903. *(Temporary)* **Duty of care — limited liability.** (1) A government entity that possesses or is in control of a premises, including a tenant, lessee, or occupant of a premises, who directly or indirectly invites or permits an individual onto a premises, is not liable for civil damages for injuries or death sustained from the individual's exposure to covid-19, whether the exposure occurs on a premises or during an activity managed by the person who possesses or is in control of a premises, unless the civil action involves an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, or intentional tort.

(2) The standard established in subsection (1) applies in landlord-tenant claims made under 70-24-303(1)(b) through (1)(d) for injuries or death sustained from an individual's exposure to covid-19.

(3) The standard established in subsection (1) is not violated by:

(a) a school district admitting students and up to six guests for each student to an extracurricular event including a graduation ceremony; or

(b) a school district or unit of the university system conducting in-person instruction or extracurricular activities. *(Terminates December 31, 2031—sec. 12, Ch. 516, L. 2021.)*

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 516, L. 2021.

2-9-904. *(Temporary)* **Liability of health care providers.** A health care provider is not liable for civil damages for causing or contributing, directly or indirectly, to the death or injury of an individual as a result of the health care provider's acts or omissions while providing or arranging health care in support of the response to covid-19 unless the health care provider caused the death or injury of an individual through an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, or an intentional tort. This section applies to:

(1) injury or death resulting from screening, assessing, diagnosing, caring for, or treating individuals with a suspected or confirmed case of covid-19;

(2) prescribing, administering, or dispensing a pharmaceutical for off-label use to treat a patient with a suspected or confirmed case of covid-19; or

(3) acts or omissions while providing health care to individuals with a condition unrelated to covid-19 when those acts or omissions support the response to covid-19, including the following:

(a) delaying or canceling nonurgent or elective dental, medical, or surgical procedures or altering the diagnosis or treatment of an individual in response to a federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance;

(b) diagnosing or treating patients outside the normal scope of the health care provider's license or practice;

(c) using medical devices, equipment, or supplies outside of their normal use for the provision of health care, including using or modifying medical devices, equipment, or supplies for an unapproved use;

(d) conducting tests or providing treatment to an individual outside the premises of a health care facility;

(e) acts or omissions undertaken by a health care provider because of a lack of staffing, facilities, medical devices, equipment, supplies, or other resources attributable to covid-19 that renders the health care provider unable to provide the level or manner of care to a person that otherwise would have been required in the absence of covid-19; or

(f) acts or omissions undertaken by a health care provider relating to the use or nonuse of personal protective equipment. *(Terminates December 31, 2031—sec. 12, Ch. 516, L. 2021.)*

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 516, L. 2021.

2-9-905. *(Temporary)* **Affirmative defense — reasonable measures consistent with regulations, orders, and public health guidance.** (1) In addition to all other defenses, a government entity may assert as an affirmative defense that the government entity took reasonable measures consistent with a federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance related to covid-19 that was applicable to the government entity or activity at issue at the time of the alleged injury, death, or property damage.

(2) If two or more sources of public health guidance are applicable, a government entity does not breach a duty of care if the person took reasonable measures consistent with one applicable set of public health guidance.

(3) If a government entity proves the affirmative defense contained in this section, the affirmative defense is a complete bar to any action relating to covid-19.

(4) This section may not be construed to impose liability on a government entity for failing to comply with a federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance related to covid-19. *(Terminates December 31, 2031—sec. 12, Ch. 516, L. 2021.)*

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 516, L. 2021.

2-9-906. *(Temporary)* **Limitation on requirements.** (1) If a federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance related to covid-19 recommends or requires the use of a face mask, a government entity is not required to ensure face masks are being used or a face mask is sufficient to stop the spread of covid-19 to meet the standard of care.

(2) If a federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance related to covid-19 recommends or requires temperature checks, a government entity is not required to conduct a temperature check before allowing an individual to enter a premises if the individual refuses to allow the temperature check.

(3) If a federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance related to covid-19 recommends or requires a vaccine, an individual is not required to receive a vaccine and a government entity is not required to ensure employees or agents are vaccinated to meet the standard of care. *(Terminates December 31, 2031—sec. 12, Ch. 516, L. 2021.)*

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 10
STATE AGENCY ACTIONS AFFECTING PRIVATE PROPERTY

Part 1 — Private Property Assessment Act

2-10-101. Short title.
2-10-102. Purpose.
2-10-103. Definitions.
2-10-104. Guidelines for actions with taking implications.
2-10-105. Impact assessment.
2-10-106 through 2-10-110 reserved.
2-10-111. Notice to public and interested persons.
2-10-112. Suit to invalidate state agency action.

Part 1
Private Property Assessment Act

Part Cross-References

Due process of law, Art. II, sec. 17, Mont. Const.
Eminent domain, Art. II, sec. 29, Mont. Const.
Eminent domain generally, Title 70, ch. 30, part 1.

2-10-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Private Property Assessment Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 462, L. 1995.

2-10-102. Purpose. It is the policy of this state that a person may not be deprived of the use of private property without due process of law and that private property may not be taken or damaged by a state agency without prior just compensation to the owner in accordance with the meaning ascribed to these concepts by the United States supreme court and the Montana supreme court. An assessment of each state agency action with taking or damaging implications is needed to avoid imposing expensive litigation burdens on citizens and to minimize the risk of unanticipated demands on the state's fiscal resources. The purpose of this part is to establish an orderly and consistent process that better enables state agencies to evaluate whether an action with taking or damaging implications might result in the taking or damaging of private property. It is not the purpose of this part to expand or diminish the private property protections provided in the federal and state constitutions.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 462, L. 1995.

2-10-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Action with taking or damaging implications" means a proposed state agency administrative rule, policy, or permit condition or denial pertaining to land or water management or to some other environmental matter that if adopted and enforced would constitute a deprivation of private property in violation of the United States or Montana constitution. It does not include:

(a) proposed eminent domain proceedings;

(b) a proposed seizure of property by law enforcement officials as evidence or under a state forfeiture statute;

(c) a proposed forfeiture of property during or as a result of criminal proceedings; or

(d) a proposal to repeal a rule, discontinue a government program, or implement a proposed change that has the effect of reducing regulation of private property.

(2) "Private property" means all real property, including but not limited to water rights.

(3) "State agency" means an officer, board, commission, department, or other entity within the executive branch of state government.

(4) "Taking or damaging" means depriving a property owner of private property in a manner requiring compensation under the 5th and 14th amendments to the constitution of the United States or Article II, section 29, of the Montana constitution.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 462, L. 1995.

2-10-104. Guidelines for actions with taking implications. (1) The attorney general shall develop and provide to state agencies guidelines, including a checklist, to assist the agencies in identifying and evaluating agency actions with taking or damaging implications. The attorney general shall at least annually review the guidelines and modify them as necessary to comply with changes in statutes and court decisions.

(2) In developing guidelines, the attorney general shall include a provision that state agencies should consider and follow obligations imposed by the 5th and 14th amendments to the Constitution of the United States and Article II, section 29, of the Montana constitution, as construed by the United States supreme court and the Montana supreme court, when considering and implementing an action with taking or damaging implications in order to avoid unanticipated and undue burdens on the state treasury.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 462, L. 1995.

2-10-105. Impact assessment. (1) Each state agency shall assign a qualified person or persons in the state agency the duty and authority to ensure that the state agency complies with this part. Each state agency action with taking or damaging implications must be submitted to that person or persons for review and completion of an impact assessment. The state agency may not take the action unless the review and impact assessment have been completed, except that the action with taking or damaging implications may be taken before the review and impact assessment are completed if necessary to avoid an immediate threat to public health or safety.

(2) Using the attorney general's guidelines and checklist, the person shall prepare a taking or damaging impact assessment for each state agency action with taking or damaging implications that includes an analysis of at least the following:

(a) the likelihood that a state or federal court would hold that the action is a taking or damaging;

(b) alternatives to the action that would fulfill the agency's statutory obligations and at the same time reduce the risk for a taking or damaging; and

(c) the estimated cost of any financial compensation by the state agency to one or more persons that might be caused by the action and the source for payment of the compensation.

(3) A copy of the impact assessment for a proposed action with taking or damaging implications must be given to the governor before the action is taken, except that an action to avoid an immediate threat to public health or safety may be taken before the impact assessment is completed and the assessment may be reported to the governor after the action is taken.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 462, L. 1995.

2-10-106 through 2-10-110 reserved.

2-10-111. Notice to public and interested persons. (1) After an impact assessment has been completed, and regardless of the findings in the assessment, the state agency that performed the impact assessment shall provide notice to the public and interested persons of its intent to engage in the proposed action. The notice must be provided through use of either electronic e-mail lists or postal mail lists to all persons who have elected to be notified of impact assessments and through the use of the state's official internet website used by all state agencies.

(a) The electronic e-mail lists and postal mail lists must be established to allow interested persons to be on lists notifying them of impact assessments of all state agencies or of specific information based on agency name or geographical location of a proposed action and may provide notice based on other criteria that would promote public awareness of proposed actions.

(b) The agency website link must allow access to impact assessments of all state agencies or to specific information based on agency name or geographical location of a proposed action and may also be based on other criteria that would promote public awareness of proposed actions. The website must provide a summary of the impact assessment and a link to a source for the complete impact assessment.

(2) If due to time constraints a state agency is compelled to take an action allowed by this part before completion of an impact assessment, it shall, within 3 days of learning of the requirement to take the action, post notice of the action and provide a brief explanation of the action, the need for expedited action, and an estimate of when the action will be completed and the expected availability of the completed summary and impact statement.

(3) Unless the action may be taken without a completed impact statement as provided in this part, the state agency may not take the proposed action until it has completed and posted the impact statement.

(4) The state agency shall update the assessment and provide notice to the public if the action is not adopted before the 180th day after the date the original notice was given.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 2011.

2-10-112. Suit to invalidate state agency action. (1) A state agency's adopted action is not valid unless the action was taken in compliance with 2-10-105. A private property owner affected by a state agency action taken without fulfilling the requirements of 2-10-105 may bring suit for a declaration of invalidity of the action.

(2) A suit under this section must be filed in a court in the county in which the property owner's affected property is located. If the affected property is located in more than one county, the property owner may file suit in any county in which the affected property is located.

(3) The court shall award a property owner who prevails in a suit under this section reasonable and necessary attorney fees and court costs.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 286, L. 2011.

CHAPTER 11
LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

Part 1 — Government Accountability Act

2-11-101. Short title.
2-11-102. Findings and purpose.
2-11-103. Definitions.
2-11-104. Statement of government authority required.

Chapter Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Title 2, ch. 3.

Part 1
Government Accountability Act

2-11-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Government Accountability Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 502, L. 1997.

2-11-102. Findings and purpose. The purpose of this part is to require government entities to make known the legal authority upon which certain action is based. The benefits of this requirement will be that government officials will articulate and reaffirm their legal authority to act and that both the government and the people will have a fuller understanding of the limits of the law and the facts to which the law applies. This understanding will benefit both government and the people by helping to resolve disputes between government servants and the people, without lengthy and costly litigation, by instilling trust in government, and by helping to identify deficiencies in the law so that those deficiencies may be addressed by legislative action.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 502, L. 1997.

2-11-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Government act" means the denial or issuance with conditions of a permit, certificate, license, or the equivalent of a permit, certificate, or license issued by a government entity.

(b) The term does not mean:

(i) litigation in which a government entity or other person litigates the authority of the government entity to take an act provided in subsection (1)(a);

(ii) an act provided in subsection (1)(a) for which a citation or warning is issued, other than the statement required by 2-11-104, on which a reference clearly appears to the legal authority for the government action; or

(iii) a legislative act by the state of Montana.

(2) "Government entity" means a state agency or a local government unit.

(3) "Local government unit" means a city, county, town, unincorporated municipality or village, or special taxing unit or district and any commission, board, bureau, or other office of the unit.

(4) "Rule" has the meaning provided in 2-4-102.

(5) "State agency" has the meaning provided in 2-4-102(2)(a).

(6) "Statement of government authority" or "statement" means the statement required by 2-11-104.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 502, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

2-11-104. Statement of government authority required. (1) When a government entity takes a government act, as defined in 2-11-103, it shall provide upon request to the applicant a written statement of specific legal authority upon which the action is based. The statement must be provided within 30 days of the written request by the applicant for the written statement of specific legal authority or within 30 days after the government act, whichever occurs last.

(2) The statement must clearly cite the specific statute, rule, ordinance, resolution, or other legal authority for the government act and the specific reason for the government act.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 502, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 501, L. 2001.

CHAPTER 12
GOVERNMENT PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Part 1 — State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent Government (SMART) Act

2-12-101. Short title.
2-12-102. Declaration of policy and purpose.
2-12-103. Definitions.
2-12-104. Annual plan.
2-12-105. Annual performance report.
2-12-106. Fiscal impact.

Part 1
State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent Government (SMART) Act

Part Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 760, L. 2023, provided that this part is effective on passage and approval. Chapter 760, L. 2023, was enacted into law without the governor's signature on May 18, 2023.

2-12-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent Government (SMART) Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

2-12-102. Declaration of policy and purpose. (1) It is the public policy of this state to provide for an annual planning process for state government that results in the development of initiatives and performance measures for each department's divisions to facilitate efficient, transparent, accountable, and responsive government service.

(2) The purpose of this part is to ensure the development of executive branch annual plans to provide transparency to policymakers, stakeholders, and the public with regard to departments' initiatives. The annual plans will be guided and evaluated by performance measures designed to assess how well each department has performed with respect to its initiatives.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 760, L. 2023.**

2-12-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Annual performance report" means a written annual review and assessment of the outcomes and outputs of a department as compared to its established annual plan and performance measures.

(2) "Annual plan" means a written plan prepared to guide the ongoing and proposed activities of a department by setting out initiatives, aspirational goals, outcomes, and outputs that the department intends to accomplish, and performance measures to facilitate program evaluations.

(3) "Department" means each entity listed in 2-15-104(1)(a) through (1)(p), the office of the secretary of state, the office of the state auditor, and the office of public instruction.

(4) "Division" has the meaning provided in 2-15-104.

(5) "Initiative" means a specific goal, objective, or target related to a performance measure that is adopted by a department.

(6) "Outcomes" means a quantification of the public benefit for Montanans derived from actions by a department.

(7) "Outputs" means a quantification of the number of services that a department produces for Montanans.

(8) "Performance measure" means a metric or measurement that is designed to help guide government by assessing what a department aspires to achieve pursuant to its annual plan with respect to the outcomes and outputs of its programs.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 760, L. 2023.**

2-12-104. Annual plan. (1) Each department shall produce an annual plan no later than September 1, 2023.

(2) Each department shall publish a subsequent annual plan no later than September 1 every 2 years afterward.

(3) At a minimum, an annual plan must include the following components:

(a) a description of the functions and divisions of the department, including a discussion of the department's priorities;

(b) initiatives of the department that reflect the benefits and outcomes the department expects to achieve on behalf of the public or specific groups through its divisions; and

(c) specific and measurable performance measures for its initiatives, including the preferred outcomes and outputs with respect to each initiative.

(4) Performance measures must:

(a) be tracked on an ongoing basis;

(b) assess a department's preferred outcomes and outputs;

(c) be quantitative when possible; and

(d) be designed to provide meaningful and useful information to policymakers and the public.

(5) The annual plan adopted by a department must be posted on the websites of the department.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 760, L. 2023.**

2-12-105. Annual performance report. (1) No later than December 1, 2024, and no later than October 1 of each year afterward, each department shall produce an annual performance report for the fiscal year that concluded in the same year and distribute it as provided in subsections (3) and (4).

(2) The annual performance report must focus on measuring outcomes and outputs with respect to the performance measures.

(3) An annual performance report of a department must be posted on the website of the department.

(4) In accordance with 5-11-210, the annual performance report of each department must be provided to the interim budget committee with oversight responsibility for the department pursuant to 5-12-501 and the appropriate legislative policy interim committee provided for in Title 5, chapter 5, part 2.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

2-12-106. Fiscal impact. A department may use only existing resources to implement the provisions of 2-12-101 through 2-12-105.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

CHAPTERS 13 AND 14
RESERVED

CHAPTER 15
EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICERS AND AGENCIES

Part 1 — General Provisions

2-15-101. Declaration of policy and purpose.
2-15-102. Definitions.
2-15-103. Policymaking authority and administrative powers of governor.
2-15-104. Structure of executive branch.
2-15-105. Attorney general, state auditor, superintendent of public instruction, and secretary of state — powers as department heads.
2-15-106 and 2-15-107 reserved.
2-15-108. Gender and racial balance — report to legislature.
2-15-109 and 2-15-110 reserved.
2-15-111. Appointment and qualifications of department heads.
2-15-112. Duties and powers of department heads.
2-15-113. Prior right of department head to agencies and records.
2-15-114. Security responsibilities of departments for data.
2-15-115. Notice of estimated turnaround time on application for permit or license.
2-15-116. State agency employee directory requirement.
2-15-117 through 2-15-120 reserved.
2-15-121. Allocation for administrative purposes only.
2-15-122. Creation of advisory councils.
2-15-123. Administratively created agencies — prohibition.
2-15-124. Quasi-judicial boards.
2-15-125. Future agencies and functions.
2-15-126. Terminated.
2-15-127. Terminated.
2-15-128. Terminated.
2-15-129 reserved.
2-15-130. Compliance with Military Selective Service Act required for employment — rulemaking.
2-15-131. Rights of state personnel.
2-15-132. Rights to property.
2-15-133. Rules and orders.
2-15-134. Legal proceedings.
2-15-135. Rights and duties under existing transactions.
2-15-136. References.
2-15-137. Federal aid.
2-15-138 through 2-15-140 reserved.
2-15-141. Definitions.
2-15-142. Guiding principles and documentation.
2-15-143. Training and consultation.
2-15-144 through 2-15-148 reserved.
2-15-149. Naming of sites and geographic features — replacement of word “squaw”, “half-breed”, or “breed” — advisory group.
2-15-150. Terminated.
2-15-151. Lewis and Clark bicentennial license plates — authorization to apply as sponsor — use of proceeds.
2-15-152 through 2-15-154 reserved.
2-15-155. State agency board, committee, commission, or advisory council member information to be published.
2-15-156. Districts for certain appointments.

Part 2 — Governor

2-15-201. Powers and duties of governor.
2-15-202. Repealed.
2-15-203. Western governors' university.
2-15-204 through 2-15-209 reserved.
2-15-210. Mental health ombudsman.
2-15-211. Mental disabilities board of visitors — composition — allocation.
2-15-212. Reserved water rights compact commission.
2-15-213. Renumbered 2-15-3330.
2-15-214. Renumbered 2-15-3331.
2-15-215. Renumbered 2-15-3332.
2-15-216. Repealed.
2-15-217. Office of state director of Indian affairs.
2-15-218. Office of economic development — structure.
2-15-219. Chief economic development officer — duties.
2-15-220 reserved.
2-15-221. Governor-elect — staff and services provided.
2-15-222 through 2-15-224 reserved.
2-15-225. Interagency coordinating council for state prevention programs.
2-15-226 through 2-15-230 reserved.
2-15-231. Renumbered 2-15-2206.
2-15-232. Duties and assistance.
2-15-233 through 2-15-235 reserved.
2-15-236. Treasure state living cultural treasures program.
2-15-237. Purpose.
2-15-238. Honorees — nominations — selection — certificate of proclamation — speakers' bureau.
2-15-239 through 2-15-241 reserved.
2-15-242. State poet laureate.
2-15-243. Montana sage grouse oversight team — composition.
2-15-244 and 2-15-245 reserved.
2-15-246. Renumbered 2-15-2511.
2-15-247. Terminated.

Part 3 — Lieutenant Governor

2-15-301. Office of lieutenant governor.
2-15-302. Powers and duties of lieutenant governor.
2-15-303. Repealed.
2-15-304 through 2-15-388 reserved.
2-15-389. Terminated.

Part 4 — Secretary of State

2-15-401. Duties of secretary of state — authority.
2-15-402. Deputy secretary of state.
2-15-403. Sale of corporate information list — rulemaking authority.
2-15-404. Electronic filing system — requirements — rules.
2-15-405. Fees charged by secretary of state — deposit to account — rulemaking.
2-15-406. Custody and reproduction of certain records by secretary of state.
2-15-407 through 2-15-410 reserved.
2-15-411. Commissioner of political practices.
2-15-412. Board of state canvassers.
2-15-413. Repealed.

Part 5 — Attorney General

2-15-501. General duties.
2-15-502. Qualification of assistants.
2-15-503. Representation of state in bankruptcy and debt collection proceedings — collection of fees from state agencies.
2-15-504. Official misconduct — evidential review.
2-15-505. Fentanyl mandatory minimum report.

Part 6 — State Auditor

2-15-601. State auditor.
2-15-602. Deputy state auditor.

Part 7 — Superintendent of Public Instruction

2-15-701. Superintendent of public instruction.

Parts 8 and 9 reserved

Part 10 — Department of Administration

2-15-1001. Department of administration — head.
2-15-1002. Ex officio state treasurer.
2-15-1003 and 2-15-1004 reserved.
2-15-1005. Repealed.
2-15-1006. Repealed.
2-15-1007. Board of examiners — allocation.
2-15-1008. Renumbered 2-15-1814.
2-15-1009. Public employees' retirement board — terms — allocation.
2-15-1010. Teachers' retirement board — terms — allocation — definition.
2-15-1011. State agency for surplus property.
2-15-1012. Repealed.
2-15-1013. Renumbered 2-6-208.
2-15-1014. Renumbered 2-15-1707.
2-15-1015. Montana tax appeal board.
2-15-1016. State employee group benefits advisory council — composition.
2-15-1017. Repealed.
2-15-1018. Renumbered 2-15-1514(2).
2-15-1019. Board of directors of state compensation insurance fund — legislative liaisons.
2-15-1020. Repealed.
2-15-1021. Information technology board — membership — qualifications — vacancies — compensation.
2-15-1022 through 2-15-1024 reserved.
2-15-1025. Repealed.
2-15-1026. Board of county printing — composition — allocation — compensation.
2-15-1027. Repealed.
2-15-1028. Repealed.
2-15-1029. Office of state public defender — head.

Part 11 — Department of Community Affairs (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 12 — Department of Military Affairs

2-15-1201. Department of military affairs — head.
2-15-1202. Adjutant general — qualifications — salary.
2-15-1203. Assistant adjutant generals.
2-15-1204. Division of disaster and emergency services.
2-15-1205. Board of veterans' affairs — composition — quorum — voting — compensation — allocation.

Part 13 — Department of Revenue

2-15-1301. Department of revenue — head.
2-15-1302. Director of revenue.
2-15-1303 through 2-15-1310 reserved.
2-15-1311. Advisory council for Multistate Tax Compact.

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Part 15 — Education

2-15-1501. State board of education.
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2-15-1505. Board of regents of higher education.
2-15-1506. Commissioner of higher education.
2-15-1507. Board of public education.
2-15-1508. Appointments to board of public education and board of regents — conditions — vacancy.
2-15-1509 and 2-15-1510 reserved.
2-15-1511. Agencies allocated to state board of education.
2-15-1512. Boards and offices associated with state historical society.
2-15-1513. Montana arts council.
2-15-1514. State library commission.
2-15-1515. Commission on federal higher education programs.
2-15-1516. Fertilizer advisory committee.
2-15-1517. Repealed.
2-15-1518. Director of fire services training school.
2-15-1519. Fire services training advisory council.
2-15-1520. Repealed.
2-15-1521. Cultural and aesthetic projects advisory committee.
2-15-1522. Repealed.
2-15-1523. Ground water assessment steering committee.
2-15-1524. Repealed.
2-15-1525. Seed laboratory advisory board — duties.
2-15-1526 through 2-15-1529 reserved.
2-15-1530. Montana university system interunit benefits advisory committee — composition.

Part 16 — Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 17 — Department of Labor and Industry

2-15-1701. Department of labor and industry — head.
2-15-1702. Repealed.
2-15-1703. Repealed.
2-15-1704. Unemployment insurance appeals board — allocation — composition — function — quasi-judicial.
2-15-1705. Board of personnel appeals — allocation — composition — vote necessary for decision — quasi-judicial.
2-15-1706. Commission for human rights — allocation — quasi-judicial.
2-15-1707. Office of workers' compensation judge — allocation — appointment — salary.
2-15-1708. Repealed.
2-15-1709. Repealed.
2-15-1710 through 2-15-1729 reserved.
2-15-1730. Alternative health care board.
2-15-1731. Board of medical examiners.
2-15-1732. Board of dentistry.
2-15-1733. Board of pharmacy.
2-15-1734. Board of nursing.
2-15-1735. Board of nursing home administrators.
2-15-1736. Board of optometry.
2-15-1737. Board of chiropractors.
2-15-1738. Board of radiologic technologists.
2-15-1739. Board of speech-language pathologists and audiologists.
2-15-1740. Repealed.
2-15-1741. Board of psychologists.
2-15-1742. Board of veterinary medicine.
2-15-1743. Board of funeral service.
2-15-1744. Board of behavioral health.
2-15-1745. Repealed.
2-15-1746. Repealed.
2-15-1747. Board of barbers and cosmetologists.
2-15-1748. Board of physical therapy examiners.
2-15-1749. Board of occupational therapy practice.
2-15-1750. Board of respiratory care practitioners.
2-15-1751. Repealed.
2-15-1752 reserved.
2-15-1753. Board of clinical laboratory science practitioners.
2-15-1754 and 2-15-1755 reserved.
2-15-1756. Board of public accountants.
2-15-1757. Board of realty regulation.
2-15-1758. Board of real estate appraisers.
2-15-1759 and 2-15-1760 reserved.
2-15-1761. Board of architects and landscape architects.
2-15-1762. Repealed.
2-15-1763. Board of professional engineers and professional land surveyors.
2-15-1764. State electrical board.
2-15-1765. Board of plumbers.
2-15-1766 through 2-15-1770 reserved.
2-15-1771. Board of athletic trainers.
2-15-1772. Repealed.
2-15-1773. Board of outfitters.
2-15-1774 through 2-15-1780 reserved.
2-15-1781. Repealed.
2-15-1782. Board of massage therapy.

Part 18 — Department of Commerce

2-15-1801. Department of commerce — head.
2-15-1802. Renumbered 2-15-3105.
2-15-1803. Renumbered 2-15-1025.
2-15-1804. Repealed.
2-15-1805. Repealed.
2-15-1806. Repealed.
2-15-1807. Repealed.
2-15-1808. Board of investments — allocation — composition — quasi-judicial.
2-15-1809. Board of horseracing.
2-15-1810. Repealed.
2-15-1811. Renumbered 2-15-1026.
2-15-1812. Renumbered 2-15-2506.

2-15-1813. Renumbered 2-15-217.
2-15-1814. Board of housing — allocation — composition — quasi-judicial.
2-15-1815. Montana facility finance authority.
2-15-1816. Tourism advisory council.
2-15-1817. Renumbered 2-15-3015.
2-15-1818. Repealed.
2-15-1819. Repealed.
2-15-1820. Repealed.
2-15-1821. Coal board — allocation — composition.
2-15-1822. Hard-rock mining impact board.
2-15-1823 through 2-15-1839 reserved.
2-15-1840. Renumbered 2-15-1730.
2-15-1841. Renumbered 2-15-1731.
2-15-1842. Renumbered 2-15-1732.
2-15-1843. Renumbered 2-15-1733.
2-15-1844. Renumbered 2-15-1734.
2-15-1845. Renumbered 2-15-1735.
2-15-1846. Renumbered 2-15-1736.
2-15-1847. Renumbered 2-15-1737.
2-15-1848. Renumbered 2-15-1738.
2-15-1849. Renumbered 2-15-1739.
2-15-1850. Renumbered 2-15-1740.
2-15-1851. Renumbered 2-15-1741.
2-15-1852. Renumbered 2-15-1742.
2-15-1853. Renumbered 2-15-1743.
2-15-1854. Renumbered 2-15-1744.
2-15-1855. Repealed.
2-15-1856. Renumbered 2-15-1746.
2-15-1857. Renumbered 2-15-1747.
2-15-1858. Renumbered 2-15-1748.
2-15-1859. Renumbered 2-15-1749.
2-15-1860. Renumbered 2-15-1750.
2-15-1861. Renumbered 2-15-1751.
2-15-1862. Renumbered 2-15-3307.
2-15-1863. Renumbered 2-15-1753.
2-15-1864 and 2-15-1865 reserved.
2-15-1866. Renumbered 2-15-1756.
2-15-1867. Renumbered 2-15-1757.
2-15-1868. Renumbered 2-15-1758.
2-15-1869. Montana council on developmental disabilities.
2-15-1870. Montana council on developmental disabilities — contract with nonprofit corporation.
2-15-1871. Renumbered 2-15-1761.
2-15-1872. Renumbered 2-15-1762.
2-15-1873. Renumbered 2-15-1763.
2-15-1874. Renumbered 2-15-1764.
2-15-1875. Renumbered 2-15-1765.
2-15-1876 through 2-15-1880 reserved.
2-15-1881. Renumbered 2-15-3106.
2-15-1882. Renumbered 2-15-1772.
2-15-1883. Renumbered 2-15-1773.
2-15-1884 through 2-15-1890 reserved.
2-15-1891. Renumbered 2-15-1781.
2-15-1892 through 2-15-1895 reserved.
2-15-1896. Repealed.

Part 19 — Insurance and Investment

2-15-1901. Office of securities commissioner.
2-15-1902. Insurance department.
2-15-1903. Commissioner of insurance designated.

Part 20 — Department of Justice

2-15-2001. Department of justice — head.
2-15-2002. Repealed.
2-15-2003. Repealed.
2-15-2004. Repealed.
2-15-2005. State fire prevention and investigation section.
2-15-2006. Renumbered 2-15-2306.
2-15-2007. Renumbered 2-15-2507.
2-15-2008. Board of crime control — composition — allocation.

2-15-2009 and 2-15-2010 reserved.
2-15-2011. Repealed.
2-15-2012. Renumbered 44-7-301.
2-15-2013. Renumbered 44-7-302.
2-15-2014. Renumbered 44-7-303.
2-15-2015. Workers' compensation fraud investigation and prosecution office.
2-15-2016. Office of victims services.
2-15-2017. Domestic violence fatality review commission — confidentiality of meetings and records — criminal liability for unauthorized disclosure — report to legislature.
2-15-2018. Terminated.
2-15-2019. Terminated.
2-15-2020 reserved.
2-15-2021. Gaming advisory council — allocation — composition — compensation — biennial report.
2-15-2022 through 2-15-2024 reserved.
2-15-2025. Environmental violations investigation and prosecution — authority.
2-15-2026 and 2-15-2027 reserved.
2-15-2028. Terminated.
2-15-2029. Montana public safety officer standards and training council — administrative attachment — rulemaking.
2-15-2030 through 2-15-2032 reserved.
2-15-2033. Sexual assault prosecution unit.
2-15-2034. Sexual assault response network program.
2-15-2035. Sexual assault response team committee.
2-15-2036 through 2-15-2039 reserved.
2-15-2040. Definitions.
2-15-2041. Montana end of watch trust.
2-15-2042. Montana end of watch account — payment and cessation of payment.
2-15-2043. Certification of continued eligibility — notification of change in marital status — notification of date of birth.
2-15-2044. Montana end of watch trust board.
2-15-2045. End of watch health insurance support.

Part 21 — Environmental Advisory Boards

2-15-2101. Repealed.
2-15-2102. Repealed.
2-15-2103. Repealed.
2-15-2104. Repealed.
2-15-2105. Water and wastewater operators' advisory council.
2-15-2106. Repealed.
2-15-2107. Water pollution control advisory council.
2-15-2108. Petroleum tank release compensation board.
2-15-2109. Renumbered 2-15-2213.
2-15-2110. Small business compliance assistance advisory council.

Part 22 — Department of Public Health and Human Services

2-15-2201. Department of public health and human services — head.
2-15-2202. Renumbered 2-15-1205.
2-15-2203. Board of public assistance — allocation — quasi-judicial.
2-15-2204. Renumbered 2-15-1869.
2-15-2205. Division of visual services.
2-15-2206. Office of aging.
2-15-2207 through 2-15-2209 reserved.
2-15-2210. Repealed.
2-15-2211. Renumbered 2-15-2402.
2-15-2212. Committee on telecommunications access services for persons with disabilities — composition — allocation.
2-15-2213. Repealed.
2-15-2214. Montana children's trust fund board.
2-15-2215. Repealed.
2-15-2216. Trauma care committee.
2-15-2217. Traumatic brain injury advisory council.
2-15-2218. Traumatic brain injury account.
2-15-2219 and 2-15-2220 reserved.
2-15-2221. Repealed.
2-15-2222. Repealed.
2-15-2223. Repealed.
2-15-2224. Repealed.
2-15-2225. Repealed.
2-15-2226. Repealed.

2-15-2227 through 2-15-2229 reserved.
2-15-2230. Dispute resolution requirement for contracts.

Part 23 — Department of Corrections

2-15-2301. Department of corrections — head.
2-15-2302. Repealed.
2-15-2303. Repealed.
2-15-2304. Repealed.
2-15-2305. Montana board of pardons and parole — composition and qualifications — allocation — quasi-judicial.
2-15-2306. Renumbered 2-15-2008.
2-15-2307. Repealed.

Part 24 — Department of Family Services (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 25 — Department of Transportation

2-15-2501. Department of transportation — head.
2-15-2502. Transportation commission.
2-15-2503 and 2-15-2504 reserved.
2-15-2505. Purpose.
2-15-2506. Board of aeronautics — qualification — allocation — quasi-judicial.
2-15-2507. Highway traffic safety program.
2-15-2508 through 2-15-2510 reserved.
2-15-2511. Repealed.

Part 26 — Department of Public Service Regulation

2-15-2601. Department of public service regulation — head.
2-15-2602. Public service commission — composition.

Parts 27 through 29 reserved

Part 30 — Department of Agriculture

2-15-3001. Department of agriculture — head.
2-15-3002. Montana wheat and barley committee.
2-15-3003. Board of hail insurance.
2-15-3004. Montana alfalfa seed committee — composition — allocation.
2-15-3005. Repealed.
2-15-3006. Repealed.
2-15-3007. Montana pulse crop committee.
2-15-3008 through 2-15-3010 reserved.
2-15-3011. Repealed.
2-15-3012 through 2-15-3014 reserved.
2-15-3015. Montana agriculture development council.

Part 31 — Department of Livestock

2-15-3101. Department of livestock — head.
2-15-3102. Board of livestock — composition.
2-15-3103. Repealed.
2-15-3104. Repealed.
2-15-3105. Board of milk control — membership — allocation — quasi-judicial.
2-15-3106. Renumbered 2-15-1809.
2-15-3107 through 2-15-3109 reserved.
2-15-3110. Livestock loss board — purpose, membership, and qualifications.
2-15-3111. Livestock loss reduction program.
2-15-3112. Livestock loss mitigation program — definitions.
2-15-3113. Additional powers and duties of livestock loss board.
2-15-3114. Funding of programs — contingency.

Part 32 — Department of State Lands (Repealed and Terminated)

Part 33 — Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

2-15-3301. Department of natural resources and conservation — head.
2-15-3302. Repealed.
2-15-3303. Board of oil and gas conservation — composition — allocation — quasi-judicial.
2-15-3304. State coordinator for rangeland resources.
2-15-3305. Rangeland resources committee.
2-15-3306. Repealed.
2-15-3307. Board of water well contractors.
2-15-3308. Drought and water supply advisory committee — stream gauge oversight.
2-15-3309. Invasive species council.
2-15-3310. Repealed.
2-15-3311. Western Montana conservation commission.

2-15-3312. Terminated.
2-15-3313. Terminated.
2-15-3314. Terminated.
2-15-3315. Terminated.
2-15-3316. Terminated.
2-15-3317. Terminated.
2-15-3318. Terminated.
2-15-3319. Terminated.
2-15-3320. Terminated.
2-15-3321. Terminated.
2-15-3322. Terminated.
2-15-3323 through 2-15-3329 reserved.
2-15-3330. Repealed.
2-15-3331. Repealed.
2-15-3332. Repealed.

Part 34 — Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

2-15-3401. Department of fish, wildlife, and parks — head.
2-15-3402. Fish and wildlife commission.
2-15-3403. Renumbered 2-15-1883.
2-15-3404. Fish, wildlife, and parks crimestoppers board.
2-15-3405. Appointment of wetlands protection advisory council.
2-15-3406. State parks and recreation board — composition.

Part 35 — Department of Environmental Quality

2-15-3501. Department of environmental quality — head.
2-15-3502. Board of environmental review.

Chapter Cross-References

Elected executive officers — Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Auditor, Art. VI, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Terms of executive elected officers — 4 years commencing first Monday in January following election, Art. VI, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Executive office limit — 20 principal departments, Art. VI, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

General election — state officers, 13-1-104.

Part 1
General Provisions

2-15-101. Declaration of policy and purpose. (1) The purpose of this chapter is to comply with Article VI, section 7, of the Montana constitution which requires that all executive and administrative offices, boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies, and instrumentalities of the executive branch (except for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor) and their respective functions, powers, and duties shall be allocated by law among not more than 20 principal departments so as to provide an orderly arrangement in the administrative organization of state government.

(2) It is the public policy of this state and the purpose of this chapter to create a structure of the executive branch of state government which is responsive to the needs of the people of this state and sufficiently flexible to meet changing conditions; to strengthen the executive capacity to administer effectively and efficiently at all levels; to encourage greater public participation in state government; to effect the grouping of state agencies into a reasonable number of departments primarily according to function; to provide that the responsibility within the executive branch of state government for the implementation of programs and policies is clearly fixed and ascertainable; and to eliminate overlapping and duplication of effort within the executive branch of state government.

History: En. 82A-102 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-102.

2-15-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Advisory capacity" means furnishing advice, gathering information, making recommendations, and performing other activities that may be necessary to comply with federal funding requirements and does not mean administering a program or function or setting policy.

(2) "Agency" means an office, position, commission, committee, board, department, council, division, bureau, section, or any other entity or instrumentality of the executive branch of state government.

(3) "Data" means any information stored on information technology resources.

(4) "Department" means a principal functional and administrative entity that:

(a) is created by this chapter within the executive branch of state government;

(b) is one of the 20 principal departments permitted under the constitution; and

(c) includes its units.

(5) "Department head" means a director, commission, board, commissioner, or constitutional officer in charge of a department created by this chapter.

(6) (a) "Director" means a department head specifically referred to as a director in this chapter and does not mean a commission, board, commissioner, or constitutional officer.

(b) The term does not include the state director of Indian affairs provided for in 2-15-217.

(7) "Executive branch" means the executive branch of state government referred to in Article III, section 1, and Article VI of the Montana constitution.

(8) "Function" means a duty, power, or program, exercised by or assigned to an agency, whether or not specifically provided for by law.

(9) "Information technology resources" means hardware, software, and associated services and infrastructure used to store or transmit information in any form, including voice, video, and electronic data.

(10) "Quasi-judicial function" means an adjudicatory function exercised by an agency, involving the exercise of judgment and discretion in making determinations in controversies. The term includes but is not limited to the functions of:

(a) interpreting, applying, and enforcing existing rules and laws;

(b) granting or denying privileges, rights, or benefits;

(c) issuing, suspending, or revoking licenses, permits, and certificates;

(d) determining rights and interests of adverse parties;

(e) evaluating and passing on facts;

(f) awarding compensation;

(g) fixing prices;

(h) ordering action or abatement of action;

(i) adopting procedural rules;

(j) holding hearings; and

(k) any other act necessary to the performance of a quasi-judicial function.

(11) "Quasi-legislative function" generally means making or having the power to make rules or set rates and all other acts connected with or essential to the proper exercise of a quasi-legislative function.

(12) "Unit" means an internal subdivision of an agency, created by law or by administrative action, including a division, bureau, section, or department, and an agency allocated to a department for administrative purposes only by this chapter.

History: En. 82A-103 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-103; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 592, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial functions primarily regulated by administrative procedures, Title 2, ch. 4.

2-15-103. Policymaking authority and administrative powers of governor. In accordance with Article VI, section 4, of the Montana constitution, the governor is the chief executive officer of the state. Subject to the constitution and law of this state, the governor shall formulate and administer the policies of the executive branch of state government. In the execution of these policies, the governor has full powers of supervision, approval, direction, and appointment over all departments and their units, other than the office of the lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, and superintendent of public instruction, except as otherwise provided by law. Whenever a conflict arises as to the administration of the policies of the executive branch of state government, except for conflicts arising in the office of the lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, and superintendent of public instruction, the governor shall resolve the conflict, and the decision of the governor is final.

History: En. 82A-105 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-105.

2-15-104. Structure of executive branch. (1) In accordance with the constitution, all executive and administrative offices, boards, commissions, agencies, and instrumentalities of the executive branch of state government and their respective functions are allocated by this chapter among and within the following departments or entities:

(a) department of administration;
(b) department of military affairs;
(c) department of revenue;
(d) state board of education;
(e) department of labor and industry;
(f) department of commerce;
(g) department of justice;
(h) department of public health and human services;
(i) department of corrections;
(j) department of transportation;
(k) department of public service regulation;
(l) department of agriculture;
(m) department of livestock;
(n) department of natural resources and conservation;
(o) department of fish, wildlife, and parks;
(p) department of environmental quality.

(2) For its internal structure, each department shall adhere to the following standard terms:

(a) The principal unit of a department is a division. Each division is headed by an administrator.

(b) The principal unit of a division is a bureau. Each bureau is headed by a chief.

(c) The principal unit of a bureau is a section. Each section is headed by a supervisor.

History: En. 82A-104 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 358, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 51, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-104; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 7, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

2-15-105. Attorney general, state auditor, superintendent of public instruction, and secretary of state — powers as department heads. The attorney general, state auditor, superintendent of public instruction, and secretary of state have, in addition to any other power vested by the Montana constitution or by law, the same powers accorded the heads of departments by this part. No duties relating to the governor or requirements for permission from or approval by the governor in this part apply to such elected officials in the exercise of such power unless a statute specifically requires the elected official to perform such duty or obtain such permission or approval.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1983.

2-15-106 and 2-15-107 reserved.

2-15-108. Gender and racial balance — report to legislature. (1) As vacancies occur and appointments are made, all appointing authorities of all appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils of state government shall take positive action to attain gender balance and proportional representation of minorities resident in Montana to the greatest extent possible.

(2) Pursuant to subsection (1), the secretary of state shall publish in the Montana Administrative Register on a monthly basis the recent appointments made by the executive branch and the upcoming vacancies on executive boards and commissions.

(3) The governor shall report to the legislature, as provided in 5-11-210, on the progress made toward achieving the goals set forth in this section.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 208, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Individual dignity, Art. II, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Basic political rights, Title 49, ch. 1, part 2.
Discrimination by state, 49-2-308.

2-15-109 and 2-15-110 reserved.

2-15-111. Appointment and qualifications of department heads. (1) At the beginning of each gubernatorial term, the governor shall appoint each department head who serves as a director as provided in this chapter.

(2) An appointment of a director by the governor is subject to the confirmation of the senate, except that the governor may appoint a director to assume office before the senate meets in its next regular session to consider the appointment. A director so appointed is vested with all the functions of the office upon assuming the office and is a de jure officer, notwithstanding the fact that the senate has not yet confirmed the appointment. If the senate does not confirm the appointment of a director, the governor shall make a new appointment.

(3) A director serves at the pleasure of the governor. The governor may remove a director at any time and appoint a new director to the office.

(4) The governor shall select a director on the basis of the person's professional and administrative knowledge and experience and additional qualifications that are provided by law.

(5) If a vacancy occurs in the office of a director, the governor shall appoint a new director to serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(6) Heads of departments who are not directors must be elected or appointed and serve and have their vacancies filled as provided by law.

History: En. 82A-106 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-106; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Appointment of department heads by Governor, Art. VI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

2-15-112. Duties and powers of department heads. (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, each department head shall:

(a) supervise, direct, account for, organize, plan, administer, and execute the functions vested in the department by this chapter or other law;

(b) establish the policy to be followed by the department and employees;

(c) compile and submit reports and budgets for the department as required by law or requested by the governor;

(d) provide the governor with any information that the governor requests at any time on the operation of the department;

(e) represent the department in communications with the governor;

(f) (i) prescribe rules, consistent with law and rules established by the governor, for the:

(A) administration of the department;

(B) conduct of the employees;

(C) distribution and performance of business; and

(D) custody, use, and preservation of the records, documents, and property pertaining to department business.

(ii) The lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, and superintendent of public instruction may prescribe their own rules for their departments or offices, and the governor may not prescribe rules for them.

(iii) The rules described in this subsection (1)(f) are limited to statements concerning only the internal management of the agency and not affecting private rights or procedures available to the public. This section does not authorize the adoption of any rule as rules are defined in the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(g) subject to the approval of the governor, establish the internal organizational structure of the department and allocate the functions of the department to units to promote the economic and efficient administration and operation of the department. The internal structure of the department must be established in accordance with 2-15-104(2).

(h) subject to law, establish and make appointments to necessary subordinate positions and abolish unnecessary positions;

(i) maintain a central office in Helena for the department and maintain other facilities throughout the state as may be required for the effective and efficient operation of the department.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by law, each department head may:

(a) subject to law, transfer employees between positions, remove persons appointed to positions, and change the duties, titles, and compensation of employees within the department;

(b) delegate any of the functions vested in the department head to subordinate employees;

(c) apply for, accept, administer, and expend funds, grants, gifts, and loans from the federal government or any other source in administering the department's functions;

(d) enter into agreements with federal, state, and local agencies necessary to carry out the department's functions; and

(e) eliminate positions within the department. If the salary for an eliminated position is not redistributed as provided for under 2-18-1107, the office of budget and program planning shall increase the department's appropriation in the second year of the biennium by an amount equal to one-half of the savings resulting from the elimination of a position. The increased appropriation in the second year of the biennium may be expended at the discretion of the department head, provided that the expenditure is consistent with the goals and objectives of the department. The remaining one-half must revert to the original funding source. This subsection (2)(e) does not apply to an agency allocated to a department in either year of the 2 years of the biennium for administrative purposes, as provided in 2-15-121.

History: **En. 82A-107 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 358, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-107; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 601, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 23, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
State merit system and personnel classification, Title 2, ch. 18.

2-15-113. Prior right of department head to agencies and records. Each department head designated by this chapter or appointed by the governor has, before assuming the office of the department head, full access to all agencies and their records within the department created by this chapter for the purpose of formulating plans for internal organization and the fiscal and personnel administration of the department.

History: **En. 82A-109 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-109.**

Cross-References

Right of public to have access to public records, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Records of elected Executive Branch officers, Title 2, ch. 6, part 11.

2-15-114. Security responsibilities of departments for data. Each department head is responsible for ensuring an adequate level of security for all data within that department and shall:

(1) develop and maintain written internal policies and procedures to ensure security of data. The internal policies and procedures are confidential information and exempt from public inspection, except that the information must be available to the legislative auditor in performing postauditing duties.

(2) designate an information security manager to administer the department's security program for data;

(3) implement appropriate cost-effective safeguards to reduce, eliminate, or recover from identified threats to data;

(4) ensure that internal evaluations of the security program for data are conducted. The results of the internal evaluations are confidential and exempt from public inspection, except that the information must be available to the legislative auditor in performing postauditing duties.

(5) include appropriate security requirements, as determined by the department, in the written specifications for the department's solicitation of data and information technology resources; and

(6) include a general description of the existing security program and future plans for ensuring security of data in the agency information technology plan as provided for in 2-17-523.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 592, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 114, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Security responsibility of Department of Administration, 2-17-534.
Security responsibility of Supreme Court, 3-2-605.
Security responsibility of Board of Regents, 20-25-301.

2-15-115. Notice of estimated turnaround time on application for permit or license. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), an application form issued by an agency that is an application for a permit or a license must include, either as an attachment or directly on the form, the estimated time it will take for the agency to process and act on a correctly completed application form.

(2) In specifying the estimated turnaround time, an agency may use either the average turnaround time for applications or an estimate based on the percentage of applications processed within the most common turnaround time.

(3) This section does not apply to an application processed on the same day that the application is received.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1999.

2-15-116. State agency employee directory requirement. (1) Each state agency shall post an employee directory on the agency's website. The link to the directory must be on the main landing page of the agency's website.

(2) (a) Except as provided in [subsection (2)(b)], the directory must include the name, title, and a direct phone number and e-mail address issued by the agency for each agency employee whose job responsibilities include regular interactions with the public.

(b) Department heads may exempt from the requirements of subsection (2)(a) persons in safety-sensitive positions.

(3) The directory page must include an organizational chart for the department so members of the public know which department or individual to contact.

(4) The agency shall perform regular checks, at least semiannually, of the directory to ensure that the information is current and accurate. The date of the last update must be posted on the directory page.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 607, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 607, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

Code Commissioner Correction: In (2)(a) the Code Commissioner substituted "subsection (2)(b)" for "subsection (b)" to correct an erroneous internal reference.

2-15-117 through 2-15-120 reserved.

2-15-121. Allocation for administrative purposes only. (1) An agency allocated to a department for administrative purposes only in this chapter shall:

(a) (i) exercise its quasi-judicial, quasi-legislative, licensing, and policymaking functions independently of the department and without approval or control of the department except as provided in subsection (1)(a)(ii);

(ii) accede, if the agency is a licensing board regulated by the department of labor and industry under Title 37, to the active supervision required by 37-1-121(1)(d);

(b) submit its budgetary requests through the department; and

(c) submit reports required of it by law or by the governor through the department.

(2) The department to which an agency is allocated for administrative purposes only in this title shall:

(a) direct and supervise the budgeting, recordkeeping, reporting, and related administrative and clerical functions of the agency;

(b) include the agency's budgetary requests in the departmental budget;

(c) collect all revenues for the agency and deposit them in the proper fund or account. Except as provided in 37-1-101, the department may not use or divert the revenues from the fund or account for purposes other than provided by law.

(d) provide staff for the agency. Unless otherwise indicated in this chapter, the agency may not hire its own personnel.

(e) print and disseminate for the agency any required notices, rules, or orders adopted, amended, or repealed by the agency.

(3) The department head of a department to which any agency is allocated for administrative purposes only in this chapter shall:

(a) represent the agency in communications with the governor;

(b) allocate office space to the agency as necessary, subject to the approval of the department of administration.

History: En. 82A-108 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-108; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Department of Administration to allot office space in Helena, 2-17-101.

2-15-122. Creation of advisory councils. (1) (a) A department head or the governor may create advisory councils.

(b) An agency or an official of the executive branch of state government other than a department head or the governor, including the superintendents of the state's institutions and the presidents of the units of the state's university system, may also create advisory councils but only if federal law or regulation requires that the official or agency create the advisory council as a condition to the receipt of federal funds.

(c) The board of public education, the board of regents of higher education, the state board of education, the attorney general, the state auditor, the secretary of state, and the superintendent of public instruction may create advisory councils, which shall serve at their pleasure, without the approval of the governor. The creating authority shall file a record of each council created by it in the office of the governor and the office of the secretary of state in accordance with subsection (9).

(2) Each advisory council created under this section must be known as the ".... advisory council".

(3) The creating authority shall:

(a) prescribe the composition and advisory functions of each advisory council created;

(b) appoint its members, who shall serve at the pleasure of the creating authority; and

(c) specify a date when the existence of each advisory council ends.

(4) Advisory councils may be created only for the purpose of acting in an advisory capacity, as defined in 2-15-102.

(5) (a) Unless an advisory council member is a full-time salaried officer or employee of this state or of any political subdivision of this state, the member is entitled to be paid in an amount to be determined by the department head, not to exceed $100 for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of council duties and to be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred while in the performance of council duties.

(b) Members who are full-time salaried officers or employees of this state or of any political subdivision of this state are not entitled to be compensated for their service as members but are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

(6) Unless otherwise specified by the creating authority, at its first meeting in each year, an advisory council shall elect a presiding officer and other officers that it considers necessary.

(7) Unless otherwise specified by the creating authority, an advisory council shall meet at least annually and shall also meet on the call of the creating authority or the governor and may meet at other times on the call of the presiding officer or a majority of its members. An advisory council may meet anywhere within the state of Montana or by remote means.

(8) A majority of the membership of an advisory council constitutes a quorum to do business.

(9) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), an advisory council may not be created or appointed by a department head or any other official without the approval of the governor. In order for the creation or approval of the creation of an advisory council to be effective, the governor shall file in the governor's office and in the office of the secretary of state a record of the council created showing:

(a) the council's name, in accordance with subsection (2);

(b) the council's composition;

(c) the appointed members, including names and addresses;

(d) the council's purpose; and

(e) the council's term of existence, in accordance with subsection (10).

(10) An advisory council may not be created to remain in existence longer than 2 years after the date of its creation or beyond the period required to receive federal or private funds, whichever occurs later, unless extended by the appointing authority in the manner set forth in subsection (1). If the existence of an advisory council is extended, the appointing authority shall

specify a new date, not more than 2 years later, when the existence of the advisory council ends and file a record of the order in the office of the governor and the office of the secretary of state. The existence of any advisory council may be extended as many times as necessary.

(11) For the purposes of this section, "remote means" includes telephone audio, teleconference, or videoconference.

History: En. 82A-110 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 358, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 51, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-110; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 361, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 603, L.2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Coordination: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 9, Ch. 603, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

The amendments to this section made by sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 2023, and sec. 1, Ch. 603, L. 2023, were replaced by sec. 9, Ch. 603, L. 2023, a coordination section.

2-15-123. Administratively created agencies — prohibition. The governor, a department head, or any other official of the executive branch of state government or an agency may not, by administrative action, create or attempt to create an agency of state government. This section does not apply to:

(1) advisory councils created in accordance with 2-15-122;

(2) units within the internal structure of a department established under 2-15-112(1)(g).

History: En. 82A-111 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-111.

2-15-124. Quasi-judicial boards. If an agency is designated by law as a quasi-judicial board for the purposes of this section, the following requirements apply:

(1) The number of and qualifications of its members are as prescribed by law. In addition to those qualifications, unless otherwise provided by law, at least one member must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state.

(2) The governor shall appoint the members. A majority of the members must be appointed to serve for terms concurrent with the gubernatorial term and until their successors are appointed. The remaining members must be appointed to serve for terms ending on the first day of the third January of the succeeding gubernatorial term and until their successors are appointed. It is the intent of this subsection that the governor appoint a majority of the members of each quasi-judicial board at the beginning of the governor's term and the remaining members in the middle of the governor's term. As used in this subsection, "majority" means the next whole number greater than half.

(3) The appointment of each member is subject to the confirmation of the senate then meeting in regular session or next meeting in regular session following the appointment. A member so appointed has all the powers of the office upon assuming that office and is a de jure officer, notwithstanding the fact that the senate has not yet confirmed the appointment. If the senate does not confirm the appointment of a member, the governor shall appoint a new member to serve for the remainder of the term.

(4) A vacancy must be filled in the same manner as regular appointments, and the member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term to which the member is appointed.

(5) The governor shall designate the presiding officer. The presiding officer may make and second motions and vote.

(6) Members may be removed by the governor only for cause.

(7) Unless otherwise provided by law, each member is entitled to be paid $100 for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of board duties and is also entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred while in the performance of board duties. Members who are full-time salaried officers or employees of this state or of a political subdivision of this state are not entitled to be compensated for their service as members except when they perform their board duties outside their regular working hours or during time charged against their leave, but those members are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Ex officio board members may not receive compensation but must receive travel expenses.

(8) A majority of the membership constitutes a quorum to do business. A favorable vote of at least a majority of the members in attendance at a meeting at which a quorum is present is required to adopt any resolution, motion, or other decision, unless otherwise provided by law.

History: **En. 82A-112 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 358, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-112(1), (2)(a), (3) thru (8); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 672, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 650, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 603, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 377, L. 2023, in (8) in second sentence substituted "majority of the members in attendance at a meeting at which a quorum is present" for "majority of all members of a board". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 603, L. 2023, in (7) near beginning of first sentence increased pay from $50 to $100. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Professions and Occupations, Title 37.

2-15-125. Future agencies and functions. If an agency or a function is not allocated or transferred to a department or a constitutional office by this chapter or any other act of the legislature, the governor shall, by executive order, allocate that agency for administrative purposes only or function to the appropriate principal department or constitutional office. The governor shall transmit copies of all executive orders issued under this section to the legislature at its next regular session.

History: **En. 82A-115 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-115.**

2-15-126. Terminated. Sec. 4, Ch. 237, L. 1993.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 237, L. 1993.**

2-15-127. Terminated. Sec. 4, Ch. 237, L. 1993.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 237, L. 1993.**

2-15-128. Terminated. Sec. 4, Ch. 237, L. 1993.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 237, L. 1993.**

2-15-129 reserved.

2-15-130. Compliance with Military Selective Service Act required for employment — rulemaking. (1) An agency of state government or of the Montana university system may not employ, on a full-time or part-time basis, in a permanent or temporary position, an individual who has failed to comply with the registration requirements of the federal Military Selective Service Act, 50 App. U.S.C. 451, et seq. However, this prohibition does not apply to an individual who:

(a) by a preponderance of the evidence shows that the failure to register was not done knowingly or willfully; or

(b) is exempt from registration under the provisions of the Military Selective Service Act.

(2) The department of administration and the board of regents shall adopt rules to implement this section.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 2001.**

2-15-131. Rights of state personnel. Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, each state officer or employee affected by a reorganization of the executive branch of state government under this chapter is entitled to all rights that the officer or employee possessed as a state officer or employee before the effective date of the applicable reorganization law, including rights to tenure in office and of pay, rights to vacation pay, sick pay, and leave, rights under any retirement or personnel plan or labor union contract, rights to compensatory time earned, and any other rights under any law or administrative policy. This section is not intended to create any new rights for any state officer or employee but to continue only those rights in effect before the effective date of the applicable part of the reorganization law.

History: **En. 82A-116 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-116; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 81, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

State employee classification, compensation, and benefits, Title 2, ch. 18.

2-15-132. Rights to property. The department or unit of a department that succeeds to all or part of the functions of an agency under a reorganization within the executive branch also succeeds to the rights to all real and personal property of that agency relating to the functions or parts of functions transferred. The property includes real property, records, office equipment, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents, maps, appropriations, accounts within and outside of the state treasury, funds, vehicles, and all other similar property. However, the department or unit may not use or divert money in a fund or account for a purpose other than provided by law. The governor shall resolve any conflict as to the proper disposition of the property, and the governor's decision is final. This section does not apply to property owned by the federal government.

History: En. 82A-117 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-117; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

State property, Title 2, ch. 17.

State treasury fund and account structure, 17-2-102.

2-15-133. Rules and orders. The department or unit thereof that succeeds to all or part of the functions of an agency under a reorganization within the executive branch also succeeds to the rules and orders of that agency relating to the functions or parts of functions transferred. The rules and orders of any agency in effect before the effective date of the transfer remain in effect until amended, repealed, superseded, or nullified by proper authority or by law.

History: En. 82A-118 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-118; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Rule — definition, 2-4-102.

Adoption, amendment, or repeal of rule, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Legislative authority to repeal or amend rule, 2-4-412.

2-15-134. Legal proceedings. The transfer or abolition of an agency or function by a reorganization within the executive branch does not affect the validity of any judicial or administrative proceeding pending or which could have been commenced before the effective date of the transfer or abolition, and the department or unit which succeeds to the functions of an agency relating to the proceeding shall be substituted as a party in interest.

History: En. 82A-119 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-119; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

2-15-135. Rights and duties under existing transactions. The rights, privileges, and duties of the holders of bonds and other obligations issued and of the parties to contracts, leases, indentures, and other transactions entered into before the effective date of a transfer of functions by a reorganization within the executive branch, by the state or by any agency, officer, or employee thereof, and covenants and agreements as set forth therein remain in effect, and none of those rights, privileges, duties, covenants, or agreements are impaired or diminished by reason of the transfer of the functions of an agency or the abolition of an agency. The department or unit which succeeds to the functions of an agency is substituted for that agency and succeeds to its rights and duties under the provisions of those bonds, contracts, leases, indentures, and other transactions.

History: En. 82A-120 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-120; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

2-15-136. References. Unless inconsistent with this chapter, if an agency is abolished or if a function of an agency is transferred to another agency, references to the abolished agency or to the agency whose functions were transferred in any law, contract, or other document shall apply to the agency which succeeds to the functions which were transferred.

History: En. 82A-121 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-121; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Changing agency references in MCA — Code Commissioner authority, 1-11-101.

2-15-137. Federal aid. If any part of a reorganization within the executive branch is ruled to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the receipt of federal aid by the state, an agency, or a political subdivision, that part of the reorganization has no effect and the governor may issue an executive order which substitutes for that part to the extent necessary to effectuate the receipt of federal aid. The order is effective until the legislature again acts upon the matter.

History: En. 82A-122 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 358, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-122; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

2-15-138 through 2-15-140 reserved.

2-15-141. Definitions. As used in 2-15-141 through 2-15-143, the following definitions apply:

(1) "State agency" means a department, board, or commission of the executive branch of state government.

(2) "Tribal government" means the officially recognized government of any tribe or nation.

(3) "Tribal officials" means the elected or appointed officials of a tribal government.

(4) "Tribe" means an Indian tribe that is recognized by federal law or formally acknowledged by the state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 568, L. 2003.

2-15-142. Guiding principles and documentation. In formulating or implementing policies or administrative rules that have direct tribal implications, a state agency shall document its consideration of the following principles:

(1) a commitment to cooperation and collaboration;
(2) mutual understanding and respect;
(3) regular and early communication;
(4) a process of accountability for addressing issues; and
(5) preservation of the tribal-state relationship.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 568, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 2013.

2-15-143. Training and consultation. (1) At least once a year, the governor's office and a trainer selected by the tribal governments shall provide training in Helena or a site mutually agreed upon to state agency managers and key employees who have regular communication with tribes on the legal status of tribes, the legal rights of tribal members, and social, economic, and cultural issues of concern to tribes.

(2) At least annually, the governor shall convene in Helena a working meeting with representatives of state agencies and tribal officials, including tribal presiding officers, to discuss:

(a) tribal concerns with rules and policies that directly impact tribal government and tribal populations;

(b) other issues of concern to either the state or the tribes; and

(c) potential solutions to the concerns.

(3) By August 15 of each year, each state agency shall submit to the governor a report for the prior fiscal year describing the activities of the state agency relating to tribal government and tribal populations. The report must include:

(a) any rule or policy changes that the state agency adopted because of discussions under subsection (2)(a);

(b) the process that the state agency has established to identify the activities of the state agency that affect tribes;

(c) the efforts of the state agency to promote communication and the government-to-government relationship between the state agency and the tribes; and

(d) the efforts of the state agency to ensure tribal consultation and the use of American Indian data in the development and implementation of agency programs that directly affect tribes.

(4) By September 15 of each year, the governor shall provide to each tribal government a report with an overview of all state and tribal activities for the prior fiscal year, including a description of the training required under subsection (1). It is the intent of the legislature that this report be prepared within existing levels of funding.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 568, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 2007.

2-15-144 through 2-15-148 reserved.

2-15-149. Naming of sites and geographic features — replacement of word "squaw", "half-breed", or "breed" — advisory group. (1) The state director of Indian affairs shall appoint an advisory group, which must include a member of the Little Shell Chippewa tribe, to serve on a volunteer basis to consult with local agencies, organizations, and individuals to reach a consensus on developing names to replace present site or geographic names that contain the word "squaw", "half-breed", or "breed".

(2) Each agency of state government that owns or manages public land in the state shall identify any features or places under its jurisdiction that contain the word "squaw", "half-breed", or "breed" and inform the advisory group of the agency's identification of features or places containing any of those words. The agency shall ensure that whenever the agency updates a map or replaces a sign, an interpretive marker, or any other marker because of wear or vandalism, the word "squaw", "half-breed", or "breed" is removed and replaced with the name chosen by the advisory group.

(3) The advisory group shall:

(a) notify the U.S. forest service, the Montana departments of commerce and natural resources and conservation, and any other entity that compiles information for and develops maps for the state or for public use of the name change so that it may be reflected on subsequent editions of any maps or informational literature produced by those entities; and

(b) place a formal request with the United States board on geographic names to render a decision on the proposed name change so that the new name will be reflected on all United States board on geographic names maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 307, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 164, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 2015.

2-15-150. Terminated. Sec. 2, Ch. 428, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 414, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 2005.

2-15-151. Lewis and Clark bicentennial license plates — authorization to apply as sponsor — use of proceeds. (1) An applicant for a generic specialty license plate that was sponsored by the former Lewis and Clark bicentennial commission shall make a donation of $20 to the department of commerce and the Montana historical society as the successors to the Lewis and Clark bicentennial commission upon initial issuance of the license plates and a donation of $20 upon each annual renewal of the license plates.

(2) The donation provided for in subsection (1) must be paid to the county treasurer, who shall remit the entire amount to the department of revenue for deposit in the special revenue accounts established in 90-1-115.

(3) Beginning January 1, 2007, the department of commerce and the Montana historical society shall use money in the special revenue accounts established in 90-1-115 to support projects related to Lewis and Clark.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 414, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17(1), Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 223, L. 2005.

2-15-152 through 2-15-154 reserved.

2-15-155. State agency board, committee, commission, or advisory council member information to be published. (1) Whenever a board, committee, commission, or advisory council of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch publishes a report, such as an audit report, program evaluation report, research report, or statutorily required report, the board, committee, commission, or advisory council shall publish in the report:

(a) the name of each board, committee, commission, or advisory council member;

(b) an address, telephone number, or e-mail address for each board, committee, commission, or advisory council member; and

(c) the term of each board, committee, commission, or advisory council member, including the date that the member's term expires.

(2) Each executive, legislative, and judicial branch board, committee, commission, or advisory council shall ensure that the information required under subsection (1) is readily available on a website.

(3) This section is not intended to apply to administrative documents, such as memoranda or letters.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 2011.

2-15-156. Districts for certain appointments. For appointment of persons provided for in 2-15-1508, 2-15-1821, and 2-15-1822, the districts are the following counties:

(1) District 1: Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Powell, Granite, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Broadwater, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, and Carbon;

(2) District 2: Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Richland, McCone, Garfield, Petroleum, Fergus, Judith Basin, Cascade, Chouteau, Teton, Pondera, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Prairie, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon, Carter, Powder River, Big Horn, and Yellowstone.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 2019.**

Part 2

Governor

2-15-201. Powers and duties of governor. (1) In addition to the duties prescribed by the constitution, the governor shall:

(a) supervise the official conduct of all executive and ministerial officers; and

(b) ensure that all offices are filled and that the duties of the offices are performed or, in default of the performance, apply a remedy that the law allows. If the remedy is imperfect, the governor shall acquaint the legislature with the issue at its next session.

(2) The governor shall make the appointments and fill the vacancies as required by law. When a vacancy in a position on a council, board, commission, or committee has occurred or is expected to occur and must be filled by gubernatorial appointment, the governor shall post a notice by electronic means:

(a) announcing the actual or anticipated vacancy in the position;

(b) describing the qualifications for the position, if any; and

(c) describing the procedure for applying for appointment to the position.

(3) The governor is the sole official organ of communication between the government of this state and the government of any other state or of the United States.

(4) Whenever any suit or legal proceeding is pending against this state that may affect the title of this state to any property or that may result in any claim against the state, the governor may direct the attorney general to appear on behalf of the state and may employ additional counsel that the governor may judge expedient.

(5) The governor may require the attorney general or the county attorney of any county to inquire into the affairs or management of any corporation existing under the laws of this state.

(6) The governor may require the attorney general to aid the county attorney in the discharge of the county attorney's duties.

(7) The governor may offer rewards not exceeding $1,000 each, payable out of the general fund, for the apprehension of any convict who has escaped from the state prison or any person who has committed or is charged with an offense punishable by death.

(8) The governor shall perform the duties respecting fugitives from justice that are prescribed by Title 46, chapter 30.

(9) The governor shall issue land warrants and patents, as prescribed in 77-2-342.

(10) The governor may require any officer or board to make special reports, upon demand, in writing.

(11) The governor shall discharge the duties of a member of the board of examiners, of a nonvoting ex officio member of the state board of education, and of a member of the board of land commissioners.

(12) The governor has the other powers and shall perform the other duties that are devolved upon the governor by this section or any other law of this state.

History: **En. Sec. 370, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 145, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 124, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 380; re-en. Sec. 124, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 199, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1301; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 125, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 26, 2023.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211.
Special sessions of Legislature, Art. V, sec. 6, Mont. Const.; Art. VI, sec. 11, Mont. Const.; 5-2-103; 5-3-101.
Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.
Election — must file jointly with candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Art. VI, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Qualifications for office, Art. VI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Succession and Acting Governor, Art. VI, sec. 6 and 14, Mont. Const.; 2-16-511 through 2-16-515, 2-16-521.
Policymaking and administrative powers, Art. VI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; 2-15-103.
Action by Governor on legislative bills, Art. VI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 4, part 3.
Budget responsibilities, Art. VI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; Title 17, ch. 7; 17-8-102.
Executive clemency, Art. VI, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Commander-in-chief of militia, Art. VI, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; 10-3-305.
Lieutenant Governor as Acting Governor — absences from state, Art. VI, sec. 14(2), Mont. Const.
Reports from officers of Executive Branch, Art. VI, sec. 15, Mont. Const.
Membership in:
Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; 77-1-201.
State Board of Education — ex officio, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Board of Regents — ex officio, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; 2-15-1505.
Board of Public Education — ex officio, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; 2-15-1507.
Board of Examiners, 2-15-1007.
Immunity from liability, 2-9-113.
Salary, 2-16-405.
Resignation, 2-16-502.
Inability to perform office, 2-16-504.
Appointments to fill vacancies in public offices, 2-16-505, 2-16-506.
Travel expenses, 2-18-501.
Declaration of martial rule, 10-1-106.
Emergency and disaster powers, Title 10, ch. 3.
Budget responsibilities of Governor-elect, 17-7-121.
Transfer of convicted offenders under treaty, 53-1-106.
Energy supply emergency powers, Title 90, ch. 4, part 3.

2-15-202. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 184, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 372, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 147, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 126, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 382; re-en. Sec. 126, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1303.

2-15-203. Western governors' university. The governor is authorized to act in consort with the governors of other states to create an entity to facilitate the provision of higher education services by electronic means to the residents of Montana and other states. The governor may take any steps necessary for Montana to join the entity that is created, including the payment of a fee, assessment, or other charge required for membership. It is anticipated that the entity will be called the western governors' university, but this authorization is not dependent on the entity being known by any specific name.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1997.

2-15-204 through 2-15-209 reserved.

2-15-210. Mental health ombudsman. (1) There is a mental health ombudsman. The ombudsman must be appointed by the governor for a term of 4 years. The ombudsman is attached to the office of the governor for administrative purposes.

(2) The ombudsman shall provide an annual report to the governor and a biennial report to the legislature, as required by 5-11-210, and may include recommendations regarding the mental health system.

(3) The ombudsman shall represent the interests of individuals with regard to the need for public mental health services, including individuals in transition from public to private services. The ombudsman may not provide a legal advocacy service.

(4) The ombudsman may retain counsel for legal support.

(5) Names of individuals receiving assistance from the ombudsman and information associated with an individual compiled by the ombudsman in the course of conducting an investigation are confidential and privileged information and may not be disclosed unless a court has determined that certain information is subject to compulsory legal process or discovery because the party seeking the information has demonstrated that there is a compelling state interest that outweighs the individual's privacy interest or the information is requested pursuant to an investigative subpoena issued under 46-4-301.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 577, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 544, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

2-15-211. Mental disabilities board of visitors — composition — allocation. (1) The governor shall appoint a mental disabilities board of visitors.

(2) (a) The board shall consist of six persons who possess qualifications necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the board defined in 53-20-104 and 53-21-104.

(b) The members of the board must meet the following requirements:

(i) one person must possess skills, knowledge, and experience relative to the treatment and welfare of adults with serious disabling mental illnesses;

(ii) one person must possess skills, knowledge, and experience relative to the treatment and welfare of children with serious emotional disturbances;

(iii) one person must possess skills, knowledge, and experience relative to the treatment and welfare of adults with developmental disabilities;

(iv) one person must be a consumer of mental health services or a family member of a consumer of mental health services; and

(v) one person must be a consumer of developmental disabilities services or a family member of a person with developmental disabilities.

(c) The members of the board must also meet the following requirements:

(i) at least one board member must be a professional person in the field of mental health treatment;

(ii) at least one board member must be a professional person in the field of developmental disabilities treatment; and

(iii) no more than three board members may be professional persons in the fields of mental health treatment and developmental disabilities treatment.

(d) A member of the board may not be a full-time agent or employee of the department of public health and human services or a mental health facility affected by Title 53, chapter 20, part 1, and Title 53, chapter 21, part 1, except this prohibition does not affect any employee of a state college or university.

(e) Board members serve for 2-year terms. The terms are staggered so that one-half of the terms expire June 30 of each year.

(3) The mental disabilities board of visitors is attached to the governor for administrative purposes. It may employ staff for the purpose of carrying out its duties as set out in Title 53, chapter 20, part 1, and Title 53, chapter 21, part 1.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 30, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 546, L. 1977; Sec. 38-1330, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 32, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 546, L. 1977; Sec. 38-1232, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1232(part), 38-1330(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 344, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors — generally, Title 53, ch. 20, part 1.
Powers and duties, 53-20-104.

2-15-212. Reserved water rights compact commission. (1) There is created a reserved water rights compact commission. In negotiations, the commission is acting on behalf of the governor.

(2) Subject to 5-5-234, commissioners are appointed as follows:

(a) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker, one from the majority party and one from the minority party;

(b) two members of the senate appointed by the president, one from the majority party and one from the minority party;

(c) four members designated by the governor; and

(d) one member designated by the attorney general.

(3) Legislative members of the commission are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-301 for each day actually spent on commission business. Other members are entitled to salary and expenses as state employees.

(4) The commission is attached to the department of natural resources and conservation for administrative purposes only, as prescribed in 2-15-121, unless inconsistent with the provisions of Title 85, chapter 2, part 7. A sufficient and appropriate staff must be assigned to serve the commission within the budget established by the legislature. The commission staff is a principal unit within the department, and the commission shall direct and assign the staff.

(5) Members are appointed for 4-year terms and may be reappointed. A legislative member position is vacant if the person no longer serves in the legislature. The position of a member appointed by the governor or attorney general is vacant if that person is elected to the legislature. A vacancy must be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 784, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007.**

Cross-References

General powers and duties, Title 85, ch. 2, part 7.
Report on status of negotiations of Commission, 85-2-705.

2-15-213. Renumbered 2-15-3330. Sec. 2, Ch. 537, L. 2003.

2-15-214. Renumbered 2-15-3331. Sec. 2, Ch. 537, L. 2003.

2-15-215. Renumbered 2-15-3332. Sec. 2, Ch. 537, L. 2003.

2-15-216. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 25, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 707, L. 1985.**

2-15-217. Office of state director of Indian affairs. (1) There is an office of state director of Indian affairs. The office is allocated to the governor's office for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(2) The state director must be appointed by the governor from a list of five qualified Indian applicants agreed upon by the tribal councils of the respective Indian tribes of the state. The state director shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the qualifications for applicants must include but are not limited to:

(a) a bachelor's degree in a relevant public policy field, as determined by the governor;

(b) not less than 3 years experience in a professional administrative capacity; and

(c) demonstrated skills in conducting policy research and obtaining grant funds from federal, state, or private sector sources.

(4) The governor may appoint an applicant agreed upon by the tribal councils as provided in subsection (2) whose skills and experience are commensurate with the qualifications set forth in subsection (3).

(5) The state director of Indian affairs shall carry out the legislative policy set forth in 90-11-101 and perform the duties assigned under 90-11-102.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 203, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 237, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 319, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 160, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82-2702; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 184, L. 1979; MCA 1979, 2-15-1111; amd. and redes. 2-15-1813 by Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981; Sec. 2-15-1813, MCA 1993; redes. 2-15-217 by Sec. 2, Ch. 52, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 512, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 164, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 594, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 594, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Indian affairs — planning and coordination, Title 90, ch. 11.
Duties of State Director of Indian Affairs, 90-11-102.

2-15-218. Office of economic development — structure. (1) There is an office of economic development within the office of the governor.

(2) The head of the office is the chief economic development officer, who must be appointed by the governor.

(3) The office of economic development is composed of the following policy and program specialties:

(a) business retention and recruitment;

(b) workforce development;

(c) technology development;

(d) infrastructure improvement; and

(e) permitting and regulatory processes.

(4) The office may employ or contract with policy specialists to implement the programs listed in subsection (3) and the functions referred to in 2-15-219.

(5) The office may accept grants, loans, and other gifts from sources other than the state for the purpose of administering the provisions of 2-15-219, 90-1-112 through 90-1-114, and this section.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

2-15-219. Chief economic development officer — duties. The chief economic development officer shall:

(1) advise the governor on policy issues related to economic development;

(2) coordinate the state's business recruitment, retention, and expansion efforts;

(3) coordinate the development and distribution of a statewide coordinated strategic economic development plan;

(4) coordinate the individual functions and programs within the office as provided in 2-15-218; and

(5) serve as the state's primary liaison between federal, state, and local agencies, Montana tribal governments, private, nonprofit economic development organizations, and the private sector.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 100, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 100, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

2-15-220 reserved.

2-15-221. Governor-elect — staff and services provided. (1) As used in this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, "governor-elect" means the person elected at a general election to the office of governor who is not the incumbent governor.

(2) The department of administration shall provide the governor-elect and the governor-elect's necessary staff with suitable office space in the capitol building, together with furnishings, supplies, equipment, and telephone service for the period between the general election and the inauguration.

(3) The governor-elect may obtain the assistance of persons of the governor-elect's own choosing, between the general election and inauguration, and they must receive reasonable compensation for their services. These persons are state employees, but they are not subject to any civil service or personnel laws or rules of the state.

(4) In addition, the governor-elect may request that the department of administration assign one or more employees of the department of administration to assist the governor-elect and the governor-elect's staff in the study and interpretation of information. Employees of the department of administration must be assigned for the time necessary between the general election and the inauguration.

(5) The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this section must be included in the appropriation request of the department of administration to the legislature meeting in regular session immediately prior to a general election when a governor will be chosen.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1969; Sec. 82-1311, R.C.M. 1947; (2) thru (5)En. Secs. 2, 3, 4, Ch. 47, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Secs. 82-1312, 82-1313, 82-1314, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1311, 82-1312, 82-1313, 82-1314; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Inauguration — first Monday of January, Art. VI, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

2-15-222 through 2-15-224 reserved.

2-15-225. Interagency coordinating council for state prevention programs. (1) There is an interagency coordinating council for state prevention programs consisting of the following members:

(a) the attorney general provided for in 2-15-501;

(b) the director of the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201;

(c) the superintendent of public instruction provided for in 2-15-701;

(d) the presiding officer of the Montana children's trust fund board;

(e) two persons appointed by the governor who have experiences related to the private or nonprofit provision of prevention programs and services;

(f) the administrator of the board of crime control provided for in 2-15-2008;

(g) the commissioner of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701;

(h) the director of the department of corrections provided for in 2-15-2301;

(i) the state director of Indian affairs provided for in 2-15-217;

(j) the adjutant general of the department of military affairs provided for in 2-15-1202;

(k) the director of the department of transportation provided for in 2-15-2501;

(l) the commissioner of higher education provided for in 2-15-1506; and

(m) the designated representative of a state agency desiring to participate who is accepted as a member by a majority of the current coordinating council members.

(2) The coordinating council shall perform the following duties:

(a) develop, through interagency planning efforts, a comprehensive and coordinated prevention program delivery system that will strengthen the healthy development, well-being, and safety of children, families, individuals, and communities;

(b) develop appropriate interagency prevention programs and services that address the problems of at-risk children and families and that can be provided in a flexible manner to meet the needs of those children and families;

(c) study various financing options for prevention programs and services;

(d) ensure that a balanced and comprehensive range of prevention services is available to children and families with specific or multiagency needs;

(e) assist in development of cooperative partnerships among state agencies and community-based public and private providers of prevention programs; and

(f) develop, maintain, and implement benchmarks for state prevention programs. As used in this subsection, "benchmark" means a specified reference point in the future that is used to measure the state of affairs at that point in time and to determine progress toward or the attainment of an ultimate goal, which is an outcome reflecting the desired state of affairs.

(3) The coordinating council shall cooperate with and report its activities and any recommendations to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

(4) The coordinating council must be compensated, reimbursed, and otherwise governed by the provisions of 2-15-122.

(5) The coordinating council is attached for administrative purposes only to the governor's office, which may assist the council by providing staff and budgetary, administrative, and clerical services that the council or its presiding officer requests.

(6) Staffing and other resources may be provided to the coordinating council only from state and nonstate resources donated to the council and from direct appropriations by each legislature.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 346, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 164, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Family Policy Act, Title 41, ch. 7.

2-15-226 through 2-15-230 reserved.

2-15-231. Renumbered 2-15-2206. Sec. 314(2), Ch. 42, L. 1997.

2-15-232. Duties and assistance. (1) The coordinator of aging shall, with the advice of the advisory council on aging, assist the governor and the department of public health and human services in planning, coordination, and operation of programs within state government that affect senior citizens of the state.

(2) The coordinator shall meet with senior citizens and the general public to gather information on the needs of senior citizens and the effectiveness of state programs in meeting those needs.

(3) The coordinator shall advise the governor and the director of the department of public health and human services as to ways to improve the effectiveness of programs that affect senior citizens.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 664, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

2-15-233 through 2-15-235 reserved.

2-15-236. Treasure state living cultural treasures program. There is a treasure state living cultural treasures program to honor Montanans who are dedicated to preserving and passing on the traditional skills and knowledge found in Montana and whose work exemplifies Montana's culture in all of its varieties. The names of the honorees will be made available to educators, community groups, and other interested persons as a resource for information and education. A speakers' bureau registry of honorees will be created and maintained by the governor's office.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 294, L. 1995.

2-15-237. Purpose. (1) The purpose of the treasure state living cultural treasures program is to preserve the historical traditions and culture of Montana by honoring those who actively practice and preserve the skills and knowledge of Montana's culture. The program is intended to honor those who have devoted their energies to carrying forward the skills of the past and preserving the traditions and, in doing so, exemplify the vitality, variety, and excellence of Montana's culture. Montana and the surrounding region have a unique western culture that has developed from living in a sometimes harsh and always variable climate and from creating beauty and recreation from the tasks of ordinary life.

(2) Montana culture includes the forms in which the common culture of Montana manifests itself, such as in traditional music, arts and crafts, survival skills, cooking, occupational skills, storytelling, ritual and custom, and a myriad of Montana cultural and traditional artistic expressions. The most important elements of Montana's history and culture have been passed on through the generations by Montanans who pursue traditional occupations and create beauty in their everyday life.

(3) Montana's culture is a blend of native, ethnic, racial, occupational, and regional traditions that sometimes coexist and sometimes blend, including traditionally masculine and feminine domains that together create a many-faceted culture within the state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 1995.

2-15-238. Honorees — nominations — selection — certificate of proclamation — speakers' bureau. (1) County commissioners may annually solicit nominations of persons who exemplify aspects of Montana's common culture from local groups in their county, including but not limited to senior citizens' groups, community centers, county historical societies, local art agencies, labor and trade organizations, schools, and other local groups.

(2) When a solicitation of nominations is completed, the county commissioners shall compile a list of nominees from their county and present the list to the governor. The governor shall select the honorees.

(3) Each honoree shall receive:

(a) a certificate signed by the governor proclaiming the honoree to be a "Treasure State Living Cultural Treasure"; and

(b) an invitation to be included in the speakers' bureau.

(4) The speakers' bureau is a registry, maintained by the governor's office, of the treasure state living cultural treasures honorees and the skills and areas for which each honoree is recognized and can be called upon as a resource for the school-age population and all other residents of the state. The registry may include a fee schedule that delineates the speaker's fee, reimbursement for travel costs and per diem, and any other necessary expenses, if any, to be paid to the speaker by the organizations and schools that arrange for the speaker's services.

(5) The governor's office shall send on an annual basis a copy of the registry to the superintendent of public instruction, who shall send a copy to each school district of the state.

(6) The superintendent of public instruction shall inform and encourage the school districts to use the registry to choose speakers in various areas of Montana's common culture as resources in furthering the knowledge of the school-age population in the state on the unique western culture of Montana.

(7) The registry is to be made available for a reasonable charge to any person in the state upon request.

(8) The Indian tribal governments are invited to participate in the treasure state living cultural treasures program and to submit nominees to the governor as provided in subsection (2). For the purposes of this subsection, "Indian tribal government" means an Indian tribe, nation, or other organized group or community located within the existing boundaries of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 294, L. 1995.

2-15-239 through 2-15-241 reserved.

2-15-242. State poet laureate. (1) There is a state poet laureate.

(2) Within 30 days prior to the expiration of the state poet laureate's term of appointment or within 30 days after a vacancy in the position occurs, the Montana arts council established in 22-2-101 shall nominate three individuals to be the state poet laureate. The Montana arts council shall provide the list of nominees to the governor who shall:

(a) within 30 days after receiving the list of nominees, appoint the state poet laureate from among the individuals named on the list; and

(b) notify the secretary of state and the Montana arts council of the appointment.

(3) The individual named by the governor as the state poet laureate shall serve for a term of 2 years beginning on the date of appointment by the governor.

(4) The state poet laureate is an honorary position, and the person serving as the state poet laureate may not receive any compensation from the state for serving as the state poet laureate.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 2005.

2-15-243. Montana sage grouse oversight team — composition. (1) There is a Montana sage grouse oversight team. The oversight team is attached to the governor's office for administrative purposes only, as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(2) The oversight team consists of:

(a) the directors of the departments of:

(i) environmental quality;

(ii) fish, wildlife, and parks;

(iii) natural resources and conservation; and

(iv) transportation;

(b) the administrator of the division of oil and gas conservation within the department of natural resources and conservation;

(c) one member of the rangeland resources committee established in 2-15-3305;

(d) one member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate;

(e) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house; and

(f) a designated representative of the governor. The governor's designated representative is the presiding officer of the oversight team.

(3) The oversight team shall meet at least quarterly to fulfill the requirements of Title 87, chapter 5, part 9. Each meeting must be recorded electronically.

(4) Unless otherwise provided by law, each member is entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred while performing oversight team duties.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 445, L. 2015.

2-15-244 and 2-15-245 reserved.

2-15-246. Renumbered 2-15-2511. Sec. 3, Ch. 248, L. 2007.

2-15-247. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 413, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 413, L. 2013.

Part 3
Lieutenant Governor

2-15-301. Office of lieutenant governor. There is created an office of lieutenant governor.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1702.1.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211.
Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.
Election — shall file jointly with Governor, Art. VI, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Qualifications of office, Art. VI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Delegation of duties from Governor, Art. VI, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Vacancy in office of Lieutenant Governor, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 16, part 5.
Lieutenant Governor as Acting Governor, Art. VI, sec. 14(2), Mont. Const.
Salary, 2-16-405.
Inability to perform office, 2-16-504.

2-15-302. Powers and duties of lieutenant governor. (1) The lieutenant governor may:

(a) prescribe rules for the administration of the office;

(b) hire personnel for the office and establish policy to be followed by the personnel; and

(c) compile and submit a budget for the office.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall perform the duties provided by law and those delegated to the lieutenant governor by the governor.

History: **En. Secs. 2, 3, Ch. 297, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1702.2, 82-1702.3; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Delegation of duties from Governor, Art. VI, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

State personnel law — not applicable to staff, 2-18-103, 2-18-104.

2-15-303. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 392, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 152, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 132, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 132, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 297, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1703.**

2-15-304 through 2-15-388 reserved.

2-15-389. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 664, L. 1985.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 664, L. 1985.**

Part 4
Secretary of State

2-15-401. Duties of secretary of state — authority. (1) In addition to the duties prescribed by the constitution, the secretary of state shall:

(a) attend at every session of the legislature for the purpose of receiving bills and resolutions and to perform other duties as may be devolved on the secretary of state by resolution of the two houses or either of them;

(b) keep a register of and attest the official acts of the governor, including all appointments made by the governor, with date of commission and names of appointees and predecessors;

(c) affix the great seal, with the secretary of state's attestation, to commissions, pardons, and other public instruments to which the official signature of the governor is required;

(d) record in proper books all articles of incorporation filed in the secretary of state's office;

(e) take and file receipts for all books distributed by the secretary of state and direct the county clerk of each county to take and file receipts for all books distributed by the county clerk;

(f) certify to the governor the names of those persons who have received at any election the highest number of votes for any office, the incumbent of which is commissioned by the governor;

(g) furnish, on demand, to any person paying the fees, a certified copy of all or any part of any law, record, or other instrument filed, deposited, or recorded in the secretary of state's office;

(h) keep a fee book in which must be entered all fees, commissions, and compensation earned, collected, or charged, with the date, name of payer, paid or unpaid, and the nature of the service in each case, which must be verified annually by the secretary of state's affidavit entered in the fee book;

(i) file in the secretary of state's office descriptions of seals in use by the different state officers;

(j) discharge the duties of a member of the board of examiners and of the board of land commissioners and all other duties required by law;

(k) register marks as provided in Title 30, chapter 13, part 3;

(l) report to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210 all watercourse name changes received pursuant to 85-2-134 for publication in the Laws of Montana;

(m) keep a register of all applications for pardon or for commutation of any sentence, with a list of the official signatures and recommendations in favor of each application;

(n) establish and maintain a central filing system that complies with the requirements of a central filing system pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 1631 and use the information in the central filing system for the purposes of 7 U.S.C. 1631.

(2) The secretary of state may:

(a) develop and implement a statewide electronic filing system as described in 2-15-404; and

(b) adopt rules for the effective administration of the secretary of state's duties relating to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act established in Title 2, chapter 4.

(3) (a) Except for a cooperative organized and incorporated to do business under Title 35, chapter 15, 16, 17, or 18, or filed under 30-10-105, the secretary of state may not accept a filing from a person using the term "cooperative" or a derivative of the term "cooperative" to register:

(i) an assumed business name pursuant to 30-13-202;
(ii) a nonprofit corporation pursuant to 35-2-119;
(iii) a limited liability corporation pursuant to 35-8-205;
(iv) a partnership pursuant to 35-10-113;
(v) a limited partnership pursuant to 35-12-511; or
(vi) a corporation pursuant to 35-14-120.

(b) A person using the term "cooperative" to register with the secretary of state in violation of subsection (3)(a) shall be fined not less than $50 or more than $1,000.

(4) [Subsection (3)] does not apply to an entity formed prior to October 1, 2023.

History: En. Sec. 401, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 154, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 134, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 408; re-en. Sec. 134, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 96, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-2202; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 429, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 494, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 125, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 467, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 370, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Code Commissioner Correction: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

In (4) the reference to "This section" was erroneously enacted and should refer to subsection (3) of this section.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211.
Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.
Election, Art. VI, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Qualifications of office, Art. VI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duties, Art. VI, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Vacancy in office — how filled, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.; 2-16-505.
Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; 77-1-201.
Administrative rules — duties concerning filing, publishing, and distributing, Title 2, ch. 4.
Filing and copying fees, 2-6-1006.
Custody and reproduction of records by Secretary of State, 2-15-406.
Seal of state — custody, 2-15-406.
Board of Examiners, 2-15-1007.
Gubernatorial commissions, 2-16-204.
Salary, 2-16-405.
Inability to perform office, 2-16-504.
Recall petitions — approval and filing, Title 2, ch. 16, part 6.
State personnel law — not applicable to staff, 2-18-103, 2-18-104.
Filing of legislative bills, Title 5, ch. 4, part 3.
Licensing of lobbyists, Title 5, ch. 7.
Election forms, directives, and instructions, 13-1-202.
Custody of election records, 13-1-204.
Election procedures generally, Title 13, ch. 10, 14, 19.
Governor to issue commissions, 13-15-504.
Regulation of voting system use, 13-17-107.
Service on nonresident automobile drivers and owners, 25-3-602.
Registration of assumed business names, Title 30, ch. 13, part 2.
Recordation of trademarks, 30-13-312, 30-13-313, 30-13-315.
Nonprofit corporations — powers and duties of Secretary of State, Title 35, ch. 2, part 11.
Religious corporations sole — certificate of incorporation, 35-3-203.
Business trusts — formation and operation, Title 35, ch. 5, part 2.
Involuntary corporate dissolution and reinstatement by Secretary of State, Title 35, ch. 6.
Cooperative associations — formation, Title 35, ch. 15, part 2.
Cooperative agricultural marketing, 35-17-202.
Rural cooperative utilities, 35-18-203, 35-18-502.
Federal tax liens — filing, 71-3-204.

2-15-402. Deputy secretary of state. (1) The secretary of state shall appoint a chief deputy and a deputy who in the absence of the principal shall perform all the duties of office. In the case of a vacancy in the office of secretary of state, the chief deputy shall perform all the duties of the office until such disability be removed or vacancy filled.

(2) Such deputies shall subscribe, take, and file the oath of office provided by law for other state officers before entering upon the performance of their duties.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 143, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 122, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 122, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-601(part).

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212; 2-16-302.
Deputies of state officers, Title 2, ch. 16, part 3.
Vacancy in office, 2-16-501, 2-16-505.
Powers and duties of officer filling unexpired term, 2-16-507.

2-15-403. Sale of corporate information list — rulemaking authority. The secretary of state may offer for sale to private or public entities the corporate information list developed by the secretary of state. The information on the corporate information list must be limited to the information available on the corporate information computer system maintained by the secretary of state. If the list is offered for sale, the secretary of state shall adopt rules under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act specifying the fee to be charged for the list.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 1991.

2-15-404. Electronic filing system — requirements — rules. (1) As authorized by 2-15-401, the secretary of state may develop and implement a statewide electronic filing system to accommodate the electronic filing of records and documents that are required to be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

(2) If the secretary of state develops and implements a statewide electronic filing system, the secretary of state shall establish a central database for all records and documents filed electronically with the secretary of state.

(3) If the secretary of state develops and implements a statewide electronic filing system, the secretary of state shall adopt rules that:

(a) provide procedures for entering data;

(b) provide security and protection of information in the system and monitor the database and other components of the system to ensure that unauthorized entry is precluded;

(c) require standardized information for entry into the system;

(d) prescribe an identification procedure for a person filing records or other documents or otherwise accessing the system;

(e) require each individual who is required to sign a document that is filed electronically to be specifically identified as acknowledging the document and giving assent to the electronic filing through an identification procedure unique to that individual;

(f) prescribe a procedure for certification of electronic filings by the secretary of state; and

(g) prescribe a procedure for converting an electronic filing to a paper copy and for certifying the paper copy for a person requesting a paper copy.

(4) The secretary of state shall cooperate with the department of administration in the development of any electronic filing system. The filing system must comply with the standards established pursuant to 2-17-512.

(5) This section may not be construed to affect any requirement that a particular individual or officer of an organization acknowledge a document. Any person using an identification procedure in place of a signature or facsimile signature for any electronic filing is subject to the same civil and criminal penalties applicable to a person providing a signature or facsimile signature.

(6) An electronic filing system developed and implemented under this section may be constructed in phases as resources and technology allow.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-15-405. Fees charged by secretary of state — deposit to account — rulemaking. (1) The secretary of state shall, for fees charged by the secretary of state, set by administrative rule each fee authorized by law.

(2) Unless otherwise specified by law, fees:

(a) must be commensurate with the overall costs of the office of the secretary of state; and

(b) must reasonably reflect the prevailing rates charged in the public and private sectors for similar services.

(3) The secretary of state shall maintain records sufficient to support the fees established pursuant to this section.

(4) Except as otherwise provided by law, fees collected by the secretary of state must be deposited to an account in the enterprise fund type to the credit of the secretary of state. All income and interest earned on money in the account must be credited to the account.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 6, Sp. L. November 2017.**

Cross-References

Public information requests — fees, 2-6-1006.

2-15-406. Custody and reproduction of certain records by secretary of state. (1) The secretary of state is charged with the custody of:

(a) the enrolled copy of the constitution;

(b) all the acts and resolutions passed by the legislature;

(c) the journals of the legislature;

(d) the great seal;

(e) all documents kept or deposited in the secretary of state's office pursuant to law.

(2) All records included in subsection (1) may be kept and reproduced in accordance with rules adopted by the secretary of state in consultation with the state records committee provided for in 2-6-1107.

(3) The state records committee may approve the disposal of original records once those records are reproduced as provided for in subsection (2) unless disposal takes the form of transfer of records. Reproduction is not necessary for transferred records. The reproduction or certified copy of a record may be used in place of the original for all purposes, including as evidence in any court or proceeding, and has the same force and effect as the original record.

History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 348, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Persons entitled to examine and copy public records, 2-6-1003.

2-15-407 through 2-15-410 reserved.

2-15-411. Commissioner of political practices. (1) There is a commissioner of political practices who is appointed as provided in 13-37-102.

(2) The office of the commissioner is attached to the office of the secretary of state for administrative purposes only, as specified in 2-15-121, except that the provisions of subsections (1)(b), (1)(c), (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(e), and (3)(a) of 2-15-121 do not apply.

History: **En. 23-4785 by Sec. 10, Ch. 480, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 365, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 461, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 23-4785(part); amd. Sec. 19, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980.**

Cross-References

Powers and duties, Title 13, ch. 37.

2-15-412. Board of state canvassers. The board of state canvassers created in 13-15-502 is allocated to the office of the secretary of state for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: **En. 82A-2102 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-2102; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 184, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Powers and duties, Title 13, ch. 15, part 5.

2-15-413. Repealed. Sec. 407, Ch. 571, L. 1979.

History: **En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 184, L. 1979.**

Part 5
Attorney General

2-15-501. General duties. It is the duty of the attorney general:

(1) to prosecute or defend all causes in the supreme court in which the state or any officer of the state in the officer's official capacity is a party or in which the state has an interest;

(2) to represent the state in all bankruptcy proceedings in which the state's interest may be affected and in other debt collection proceedings at the request of a state agency;

(3) after judgment in any of the causes referred to in subsections (1) and (2), to direct the issuing of a process as may be necessary to carry the judgment into execution;

(4) to keep a register of all cases prosecuted or defended by the attorney general. The register must be open to the inspection of the public during business hours. The attorney general shall deliver the register to the attorney general's successor in office.

(5) to exercise supervisory powers over county attorneys in all matters pertaining to the duties of their offices and from time to time require of them reports as to the condition of public business entrusted to their charge. The supervisory powers granted to the attorney general by

this subsection include the power to order and direct county attorneys in all matters pertaining to the duties of their office. The county attorney shall, when ordered or directed by the attorney general, promptly institute and diligently prosecute in the proper court and in the name of the state of Montana any criminal or civil action or special proceeding.

(6) when required by the public service or directed by the governor, to assist the county attorney of any county in the discharge of the county attorney's duties or to prosecute or defend appropriate cases in which the state or any officer of the state in the officer's official capacity is a party or in which the state has an interest;

(7) to give an opinion in writing, without fee, to the legislature or either house of the legislature, to any state officer, board, or commission, to any county attorney, to the city attorney of any city or town, or to the board of county commissioners of any county of the state when required upon any question of law relating to their respective offices. The attorney general shall give the opinion within 3 months following the date that it is requested unless the attorney general certifies in writing to the requesting party that the question is of sufficient complexity to require additional time. If an opinion issued by the attorney general conflicts with an opinion issued by a city attorney, county attorney, or an attorney employed or retained by any state officer, board, commission, or department, the attorney general's opinion is controlling unless overruled by a state district court or the supreme court.

(8) to discharge the duties of a member of the board of examiners and state board of land commissioners;

(9) to perform all other duties as required by law.

History: (1) thru (12)Ap. p. Sec. 460, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 193, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 199, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 470; re-en. Sec. 199, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 344, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 343, L. 1977; Sec. 82-401, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 4450, Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, p. 76, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 3052, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4819, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4256; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 4819, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1965; Sec. 16-3101, R.C.M. 1947; (13)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 199.1, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-402, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3101(part), 82-401, 82-402; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 125, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 691, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211.
Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.
Election, Art. VI, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Qualifications for office, Art. VI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duties, Art. VI, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Vacancy in office — how filled, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; 77-1-201.
Opinions published in Administrative Register, 2-4-312.
Legal assistance for administrative hearings, 2-4-611.
Appointment of member of Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission, 2-15-212.
Board of Examiners, 2-15-1007.
Department of Justice, 2-15-2001; Title 44.
Salary, 2-16-405.
County Attorneys generally, 7-4-2716.
Tobacco products reserve fund — Attorney General duties, 16-11-403.
Directory of cigarettes approved for stamping and sale, 16-11-504.
Debt collection for state, Title 17, ch. 4, part 1.
Contract actions against state — service and duties, 18-1-412, 18-1-413.
Duty of Attorney General with regard to crime victims, 41-5-1416, 46-24-103.
Appointment of railroad special peace officers, Title 44, ch. 4, part 9.

2-15-502. Qualification of assistants. Each assistant attorney general must be duly licensed to practice law in the state of Montana at the time of appointment.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 96, L. 1901; en. Sec. 2, Ch. 13, L. 1907; Sec. 197, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 203, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 203, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-406; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Admission to Bar of Montana — Supreme Court, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; Title 37, ch. 61, part 1.
Deputies and assistants, Title 2, ch. 16, part 3.

2-15-503. Representation of state in bankruptcy and debt collection proceedings — collection of fees from state agencies. (1) In all matters involving bankruptcy or collection of debts owed to the state in which the attorney general provides legal assistance to a state agency, the attorney general may charge a fee to the agency plus reimbursement for actual expenses reasonably incurred. The fee may be an hourly charge, or the attorney general may designate a percentage of collected proceeds to be retained for the costs of providing legal assistance. The fees and expenses must be reasonably related to the costs of the attorney general in providing legal assistance to state agencies in bankruptcy and debt collection matters.

(2) Fees and expenses retained by the attorney general under subsection (1) must be deposited in an account in the internal service fund for the costs of providing legal assistance in bankruptcy and debt collection matters. Any funds in excess of the amount appropriated for operation of the bankruptcy program must be carried forward into the next fiscal year for continued operation of the program. Any excess funds carried forward into the next fiscal year, after meeting a 60-day working capital reserve, must be used to reduce the designated percentage of the collected proceeds charged to the various agencies. All amounts collected that are not applied to fees must be deposited to the account or fund of the agency to which the debt was originally owed.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Debt collection for state, Title 17, ch. 4, part 1.
Collection of state debt by Department of Revenue, 17-4-103.

2-15-504. Official misconduct — evidential review. The attorney general shall review a complaint referred from a county attorney concerning alleged misconduct of a local government public officer pursuant to 7-4-2718 or an independent complaint made to the attorney general concerning the alleged misconduct of a local government public officer and any evidence concerning the officer's alleged misconduct. After reviewing the complaint, the attorney general may instruct the county attorney to diligently prosecute the officer as provided by 2-15-501(5), bring an action against the officer as provided in 45-7-401, or decline to prosecute the officer.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 2017.

2-15-505. Fentanyl mandatory minimum report. Pursuant to the attorney general's duty provided in 2-15-501(5) to exercise supervisory control over the county attorneys and to require of them reports as to the public business entrusted to their charge, beginning on September 1, 2024, the attorney general shall report annually by September 1 to the law and justice interim committee and the judicial branch, law enforcement, and justice budget committee, in accordance with 5-11-210, on the number of times a court imposed a mandatory minimum required by 45-9-101(6) or 45-9-103(3) in the previous fiscal year.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 543, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 6, Ch. 543, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 18, 2023.

Applicability: Section 7, Ch. 543, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to offenses committed on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective May 18, 2023.

Part 6
State Auditor

2-15-601. State auditor. There is a state auditor as provided in Article VI, section 1, of the Montana constitution.

History: En. by Code Commissioner, 1979.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211.
Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.
Election, Art. VI, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Qualifications for office, Art. VI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Vacancy in office — how filled, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.; 2-16-505.
Ex officio Securities Commissioner, 2-15-1901.
Ex officio Insurance Commissioner, 2-15-1903.
Board of Hail Insurance — member, 2-15-3003.
Salary, 2-16-405.
Inability to perform office, 2-16-504.
State personnel law — not applicable to staff, 2-18-103, 2-18-104.

2-15-602. Deputy state auditor. (1) The state auditor shall appoint a deputy who in the absence of the principal or in the case of vacancy in the office of state auditor shall perform all the duties of the office until the disability is removed or the vacancy is filled.

(2) The deputy shall subscribe, take, and file the oath of office provided by law for other state officers before entering upon the performance of the duties.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 143, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 122, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 122, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-601(part); amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212; 2-16-302.
State deputies generally, Title 2, ch. 16, part 3.
Vacancy in office and filling unexpired term, 2-16-501, 2-16-505.
Powers and duties of officer filling unexpired term, 2-16-507.

Part 7
Superintendent of Public Instruction

2-15-701. Superintendent of public instruction. There is a superintendent of public instruction as provided in Article VI, section 1, of the Montana constitution. The election, qualifications, and term of office of the superintendent are provided for in Title 20, chapter 3.

History: En. by Code Commissioner, 1979.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211.
Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.
Election, Art. VI, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Qualifications for office, Art. VI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Vacancy in office — how filled, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Member of Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; 77-1-201.
State Board of Education — established, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; 2-15-1501.
Ex officio member of Board of Regents, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; 2-15-1505.
Ex officio member of Board of Public Education, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; 2-15-1507.
Salary, 2-16-405.
Inability to perform office, 2-16-504.
Powers and duties, Title 20, ch. 3, part 1.

Parts 8 and 9 reserved

Part 10
Department of Administration

2-15-1001. Department of administration — head. There is created a department of administration. The department head is a director of administration appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-111.

History: En. 82A-201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-201.

Cross-References

State property management, Title 2, ch. 17.
Public employees' compensation, Title 2, ch. 18.
State Finance, Title 17.
Public Contracts, Title 18.
Public Retirement Systems, Title 19.
Building construction standards, Title 50, ch. 60.

2-15-1002. Ex officio state treasurer. The director of the department of administration shall serve as ex officio state treasurer.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 468, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-214.

Cross-References

Constitutional finance mandates, Art. VIII, sec. 8, 9, 11, and 12, Mont. Const.
State Finance, Title 17.
General fiscal duties of State Treasurer, 17-1-111.

2-15-1003 and 2-15-1004 reserved.

2-15-1005. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 581, L. 1987.

History: En. 82A-204 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-204(1) thru (3), (5); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1985.

2-15-1006. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 239, L. 1989.

History: En. 82A-206 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-206.

2-15-1007. Board of examiners — allocation. (1) The governor, secretary of state, and attorney general constitute a board of examiners.

(2) The meetings of the board are held at the seat of government at times set by the president.

(3) The governor is the president, and the secretary of state is the secretary of the board, and in the absence of either, an officer pro tempore may be elected from their number.

(4) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1)En. Sec. 232 to 253 were enacted as Sections 1 to 21, pp. 183 to 187, L. 1891; re-en. Secs. 680 to 701, Pol. C. 1895; appearing as Secs. 226 to 247, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 232, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Secs. 654-685; re-en. Sec. 232, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 97, L. 1961; Sec. 82-1101, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. Sec. 227, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 233, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 233, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-1102, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-207 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 326, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 343, L. 1977; Sec. 82A-207, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1101(part), 82-1102, 82A-207; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 2005.

Cross-References

State building energy conservation program, Title 90, ch. 4, part 6.

2-15-1008. Renumbered 2-15-1814. Sec. 11, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1009. Public employees' retirement board — terms — allocation. (1) There is a public employees' retirement board.

(2) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate. The members are:

(a) three public employees who are active members of a public retirement system. Not more than one of these members may be an employee of the same department and at least one of these members must, no later than July 1, 2003, be a member of the defined contribution plan created pursuant to Title 19, chapter 3, part 21.

(b) one retired public employee who is a member of the public employees' retirement system;

(c) two members at large; and

(d) one member who has experience in investment management, counseling, or financial planning or who has other similar experience.

(3) The term of office for each member is 5 years.

(4) (a) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(b) The board shall hire necessary employees as provided in 19-2-404.

(c) Consistent with its constitutional mandate to administer the retirement plans as a fiduciary of system participants and their beneficiaries, the board shall appoint its own existing attorney in lieu of the person appointed by the department, as provided for in 2-4-110, to have sole responsibility for the legal review of each board rule proposal notice, adoption notice, or other notice related to administrative rulemaking.

(5) Members of the board must be compensated and receive travel expenses as provided for in 2-15-124.

History: En. 82A-210 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 190, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 326, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 132, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 453, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-210; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 650, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 532, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 471, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 562, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 99, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Public employees' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 3.
Judges' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 5.
Highway patrol officers' retirement, Title 19, ch. 6.
Sheriffs' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 7.
Game wardens' and peace officers' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 8.
Statewide police retirement plan, Title 19, ch. 9.
Volunteer firefighters' compensation, Title 19, ch. 17.

2-15-1010. Teachers' retirement board — terms — allocation — definition. (1) There is a teachers' retirement board.

(2) The board consists of six members appointed by the governor, as follows:

(a) three persons appointed from the teaching profession who, when appointed, are active members of the retirement system. At least one of the three appointees must be actively employed as a public school classroom teacher and shall hold a class 1, 2, or 4 certificate pursuant to 20-4-106.

(b) two persons appointed as representatives of the public;

(c) one member who must be a retired teacher who was a member of the retirement system at the time of retirement.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), each appointed member of the board shall serve a term of 5 years. Each appointed member shall take and subscribe to the oath prescribed by Article III, section 3, of the Montana constitution. The oath must be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

(b) The first appointment of a member of the public after March 16, 2001, is for a 4-year term. After that appointment, each appointment of a member of the public is for a 5-year term.

(4) If a vacancy in an unexpired term occurs on the board, the governor shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired portion of the term.

(5) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121. However, the board may hire its own personnel, and 2-15-121(2)(d) does not apply.

(6) As used in this section, "classroom teacher" means a staff member who is assigned professional activities of instructing pupils in self-contained classes or courses or in classroom situations.

History: **En. 82A-212 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 326, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-212; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 388, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212.

Teachers' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 20.

2-15-1011. State agency for surplus property. There is a Montana state agency for federal surplus property that is administered by a department designated by the governor. The director of the department may prescribe the duties of personnel needed to carry out the duties of Title 18, chapter 5, part 2.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 478, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3101; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 485, L. 1989.**

2-15-1012. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 438, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1503(1), (2).**

2-15-1013. Renumbered 2-6-208. Sec. 3, Ch. 170, L. 2011.

2-15-1014. Renumbered 2-15-1707. Code Commissioner, 1991.

2-15-1015. Montana tax appeal board. There is a Montana tax appeal board as provided in Title 15, chapter 2.

History: **En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 142, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Tax appeals, Art. VIII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

Revenue interim committee — powers and duties — revenue estimating and use of estimates, 5-5-227.

State administration and veterans' affairs interim committee, 5-5-228.

2-15-1016. State employee group benefits advisory council — composition. (1) The department shall create a state employee group benefits advisory council under 2-15-122.

(2) The members of the advisory council must be selected from a diverse group in order to adequately represent the interests of state employees and retirees.

(3) One member of the advisory council must be a retired state employee.

(4) Each labor organization, as defined in 39-31-103, representing more than 1,000 employees of the state of Montana is entitled to one representative on the advisory council.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 555, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

State employees' group insurance, Title 2, ch. 18, part 8.

2-15-1017. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 148, L. 2011.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 646, L. 1979.**

2-15-1018. Renumbered 2-15-1514(2). Code Commissioner, 1985.

2-15-1019. Board of directors of state compensation insurance fund — legislative liaisons. (1) There is a board of directors of the state compensation insurance fund.

(2) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121. However, the board may employ its own staff.

(3) The board may provide for its own office space and the office space of the state fund.

(4) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor. The executive director of the state fund is an ex officio nonvoting member.

(5) (a) At least four of the seven members shall represent state fund policyholders and may be employees of state fund policyholders. At least four members of the board shall represent private enterprises. One of the seven members may be a licensed insurance producer. One of the seven members must be a person with executive management experience in an insurance company or executive level experience in insurance financial accounting.

(b) A member of the board may not:

(i) except for the licensed insurance producer member, represent or be an employee of an insurance company that is licensed to transact workers' compensation insurance under compensation plan No. 2; or

(ii) be an employee of a self-insured employer under compensation plan No. 1.

(6) A member is appointed for a term of 4 years. A term begins April 1 of odd-numbered years and ends March 31. The governor shall appoint board members on or before February 1 of the odd-numbered years that coincide with the expiration of the board members' terms. The terms of board members must be staggered. A member of the board may serve no more than two 4-year terms. A member shall hold office until the end of the term.

(7) The members must be appointed and compensated in the same manner as members of a quasi-judicial board as provided in 2-15-124, except as otherwise provided in this section and except that the requirement that at least one member be an attorney does not apply.

(8) There must be two legislative liaisons to the board consisting of members of the economic affairs interim committee provided for in 5-5-223. Subject to 5-5-234, the presiding officer of the economic affairs interim committee shall appoint the liaisons from the majority party and the minority party at the first interim committee meeting.

(9) Legislative liaisons shall serve from appointment through each even-numbered calendar year.

(10) A legislative liaison may:

(a) attend board meetings; and

(b) receive board meeting agendas and information relating to agenda items from the staff of the state fund.

(11) Legislative liaisons appointed pursuant to subsection (8) are entitled to compensation and expenses, as provided in 5-2-302, to be paid by the economic affairs interim committee and the state fund from a $100 annual fee paid by the state fund into the general fund.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 630, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Constitutional guarantee of legal redress for injury incurred in employment, Art. II, sec. 16, Mont. Const.
Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.
Workers' compensation state compensation insurance fund, Title 39, ch. 71, part 23.

2-15-1020. Repealed. Secs. 74, 80(2), Ch. 449, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 781, L. 1991.

2-15-1021. Information technology board — membership — qualifications — vacancies — compensation. (1) There is an information technology board. The board consists of 18 members who are appointed as follows:

(a) the chief information officer provided for in 2-17-511 or a designee, who serves as presiding officer of the board;

(b) the director of the department of administration or a designee;

(c) the director of the office of budget and program planning or a designee;

(d) three members who are directors of state agencies and who are appointed by the governor, or their designees;

(e) two members representing local government, appointed by the governor;

(f) one member representing the public service commission, appointed by the public service commission;

(g) one member representing the private sector, appointed by the governor;

(h) one member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(i) one member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

(j) one member representing the legislative branch, appointed by the legislative branch information technology planning council;

(k) one member representing the judicial branch, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;

(l) one member representing K-12 education, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction;

(m) the attorney general or a designee;

(n) the secretary of state or a designee; and

(o) the state auditor or a designee.

(2) Appointments must be made without regard to political affiliation and must be made solely for the wise management of the information technology resources used by the state.

(3) A vacancy occurring on the board must be filled by the appointing authority in the same manner as the original appointment.

(4) The board shall function in an advisory capacity as defined in 2-15-102.

(5) Members of the board must be reimbursed and compensated in the same manner as members of quasi-judicial boards under 2-15-124(7), except that legislative members are reimbursed and compensated as provided in 5-2-302.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-15-1022 through 2-15-1024 reserved.

2-15-1025. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 23, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 420, L. 1973; Sec. 5-607, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-407 by Sec. 21, Ch. 431, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-407; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 321, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 52, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 483, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1803, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1025 by Sec. 221(3), Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

2-15-1026. Board of county printing — composition — allocation — compensation. (1) There is a board of county printing.

(2) The board consists of five members appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate for terms of 2 years.

(3) The members are:

(a) two members of the printing industry;

(b) two county commissioners;

(c) one member of the general public.

(4) The board is allocated to the department of administration for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(5) The members of the board must be compensated and reimbursed in the same manner and amount as provided for in 37-1-133.

History: **(1) thru (4)En. 82A-904 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 348, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-904, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 280, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 348, L. 1974; Sec. 16-1228, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1228, 82A-904; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1102; redes. 2-15-1811 by Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 474, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 483, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1811, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1026 by Sec. 221(3), Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

County printing, Title 18, ch. 7, part 4.

2-15-1027. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 9, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 2003.**

2-15-1028. Repealed. Sec. 45, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 344, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 2017.**

2-15-1029. Office of state public defender — head. There is an office of state public defender. The head of the office is a director. The director is hired by the director of the department of administration. The director is not subject to confirmation by the senate and may be removed by the director of the department of administration only for cause.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

Part 11
Department of Community Affairs
(Renumbered and Repealed)

2-15-1101. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

History: En. 82A-901 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-901.

2-15-1102. Renumbered 2-15-1811. Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1103. Renumbered 2-15-1812. Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1104. Renumbered 2-15-1821. Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1105 through 2-15-1110 reserved.

2-15-1111. Renumbered 2-15-1813. Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1112. Renumbered 90-11-101. Sec. 20, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1113. Renumbered 90-11-102. Sec. 20, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

Part 12
Department of Military Affairs

2-15-1201. Department of military affairs — head. There is a department of military affairs. The department head is the adjutant general of the state, who must be appointed and shall serve in the same manner as directors in 2-15-111. In addition, the adjutant general must have the qualifications prescribed in 2-15-1202. The adjutant general is the commanding general of military forces of the state.

History: En. 82A-1401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 94, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1401; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 198, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Military affairs, Title 10.

2-15-1202. Adjutant general — qualifications — salary. (1) The adjutant general must:

(a) have the rank of major general;

(b) be selected from the active list of the national guard of this state;

(c) be federally recognized in the rank of lieutenant colonel or higher, immediately preceding appointment;

(d) have at least 10 years of service as an officer of the active national guard of this state during the 15 years immediately preceding appointment.

(2) A salary may not be paid to the adjutant general by the state when the adjutant general is on extended active duty in federal service or is receiving pay as a civilian employee of the federal government.

(3) If, by reason of call or draft of officers of the Montana national guard into federal service, there is no officer having the qualifications set forth in this section for adjutant general, then any officer of the national guard may be appointed as acting adjutant general.

History: En. 82A-1405 by Sec. 71, Ch. 94, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1405; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-15-1203. Assistant adjutant generals. (1) The adjutant general shall appoint, with the approval of the governor, an assistant adjutant general for the army national guard to be selected from the active list of the army national guard and an assistant adjutant general for the air national guard to be selected from the active list of the air national guard.

(2) Each assistant adjutant general must have the qualifications set forth in 2-15-1202 for appointment as adjutant general. However, each assistant adjutant general must have the rank of brigadier general.

(3) The assistant adjutant general of the army national guard is the commanding general of the army national guard. The assistant adjutant general of the air national guard is the commanding general of the air national guard.

History: En. 82A-1406 by Sec. 72, Ch. 94, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1406; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 198, L. 2021.

2-15-1204. Division of disaster and emergency services. A division of disaster and emergency services is established in the department of military affairs.

History: En. 77-2305.1 by Sec. 7, Ch. 335, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 77-2305.1(part(1)).

Cross-References

Disaster and emergency services, Title 10, ch. 3.

2-15-1205. Board of veterans' affairs — composition — quorum — voting — compensation — allocation. (1) There is a board of veterans' affairs.

(2) (a) The board consists of 14 members. All members must be residents of this state. Six members are voting members, who must be confirmed by the senate, and eight members are nonvoting, ex officio members.

(b) The governor shall appoint 13 members in a manner that provides for staggered terms. The members are:

(i) five regional representatives, who must be voting members and who must have been honorably discharged from service in the military forces of the United States. Each must be appointed to represent a different geographic region of the state and must be a resident of that geographic region. The board shall establish the geographic regions by rule. A member who represents a geographic region and who changes residence to a different geographic region may no longer serve on the board unless appointed as a representative for the new location or as a representative meeting other criteria.

(ii) a representative of the office of state director of Indian affairs, who is a nonvoting member;

(iii) a representative from the department of public health and human services, who is a nonvoting member;

(iv) a representative of the United States department of veterans affairs, who is a nonvoting member;

(v) four members, one representing each house and senate member of Montana's congressional delegation, who are nonvoting members; and

(vi) the director of the department of military affairs, who is a nonvoting member.

(c) The tribal leaders of the eight tribal councils in Montana may appoint one voting member who is affiliated with a Montana tribe and is an honorably discharged veteran. If a tribal member is not appointed by the Montana tribal leaders, the governor shall choose this member by lot from a pool of names submitted by the eight tribal councils in the state, with each tribal council submitting one name.

(3) A vacancy occurring on the board must be filled by the governor, subject to the conditions of subsection (2).

(4) A quorum is three voting members.

(5) A vote resulting in a tie is the same as a negative vote.

(6) Each voting member must receive meals, lodging, and travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Compensation for the legislator who represents the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee must be paid from the board of veterans' affairs budget.

(7) The board shall meet at least three times a year. Special meetings may be called by the administrator or by a majority of voting members. Meetings may be held at different locations around the state to give local veterans an opportunity to attend. Advance notice of meetings must be provided to all veterans' groups and to any individual who requests notification.

(8) Each voting member may serve for a maximum of two terms. Each term is for 4 years.

(9) A member may be removed by the governor only for incompetence, malfeasance, or neglect of duty.

(10) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121. However, the board may hire its own personnel, including an administrator. The administrator shall serve as the secretary of the board and may represent the board

in communications with the governor and with other state agencies, notwithstanding the provisions of 2-15-121(3)(a).

History: En. 82A-1905 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1905; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 247, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 474, L. 1981; MCA 1981, 2-15-2202; redes. 2-15-1205 by Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 491, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 78, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 164, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Veterans — special consideration by Legislature authorized, Art. II, sec. 35, Mont. Const.
Veterans, Title 10, ch. 2.
Board — general provisions, Title 10, ch. 2, part 1.

Part 13
Department of Revenue

2-15-1301. Department of revenue — head. There is a department of revenue. The department head is the director of revenue.

History: En. 82A-1801 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1801.

Cross-References

State revenue — taxes, Art. VIII, sec. 1 through 5, Mont. Const.
Severance tax on coal — trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Report of revenue estimate to Governor, 2-7-104.
Taxation, Title 15.

2-15-1302. Director of revenue. (1) There is the position of director of revenue.

(2) The director of revenue shall be appointed and serve as provided for directors in 2-15-111.

(3) The director is the chief administrative officer of the department.

History: En. 82A-1804 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1804(part).

2-15-1303 through 2-15-1310 reserved.

2-15-1311. Advisory council for Multistate Tax Compact. The director of revenue shall appoint an advisory council for the purpose of complying with Article VI, section 1(b), of the Multistate Tax Compact if local subdivisions are affected by the compact. The provisions of 2-15-122 apply if an advisory council is appointed.

History: En. 82A-1803 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1803; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Multistate Tax Compact, Title 15, ch. 1, part 6.

Part 14 reserved

Part 15
Education

2-15-1501. State board of education. The state board of education is created in Article X, section 9, subsection (1) of the Montana constitution and is provided for in Title 20, chapter 2.

History: En. 82A-501 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 51, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-501.

Cross-References

Education, Title 20.
State Board of Education — generally, Title 20, ch. 2, part 1.

2-15-1502 through 2-15-1504 reserved.

2-15-1505. Board of regents of higher education. The board of regents of higher education created in Article X, section 9, subsection (2), of the Montana constitution consists of seven members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. The governor, superintendent of public instruction, and commissioner of higher education are ex officio nonvoting members of the board of regents.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 344, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 75-5610(2).

Cross-References

Montana University System, Title 20, ch. 25.
Regents' powers and duties, Title 20, ch. 25, part 3.

2-15-1506. Commissioner of higher education. (1) There is a commissioner of higher education who is appointed by the board of regents.

(2) The board of regents shall prescribe the term of the commissioner.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 344, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 75-5611(part).

Cross-References

Duties, compensation, and staff, 20-2-131.

Montana University System, Title 20, ch. 25.

2-15-1507. Board of public education. The board of public education created in Article X, section 9, subsection (3), of the Montana constitution consists of seven members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. The governor, superintendent of public instruction, and commissioner of higher education are ex officio nonvoting members of the board of public education.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 344, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 75-5610(1).

Cross-References

Education, Title 20.

Powers and duties, 20-2-121.

2-15-1508. Appointments to board of public education and board of regents — conditions — vacancy. (1) Appointments to the board of public education and to the board of regents are subject to the following qualifications:

(a) Not more than four may be from one district provided for in 2-15-156.

(b) Not more than four may be affiliated with the same political party.

(c) The terms of members appointed to each board are 7 years except as provided in subsection (3).

(d) When a vacancy occurs, the governor shall appoint a member for the remainder of the term of the incumbent, and the appointment must preserve the balance required by subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b).

(e) A person may not be appointed to concurrent memberships on the board of public education and the board of regents.

(2) An appointed member of either board shall take and subscribe to the constitutional oath of office and file it with the secretary of state before the person may serve as a member of either board.

(3) (a) One seat of the appointed members on the board of regents is reserved for membership by a student appointed by the governor. The student must be registered as a full-time student at a unit of higher education under jurisdiction of the board of regents. The length of term of the student member is 1 year. The term begins July 1 and ends June 30. The student regent may be reappointed to succeeding terms subject to subsection (3)(b). The provisions of subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) do not apply to the student member and may not affect the balance of the remaining appointive membership on the board of regents.

(b) The governor shall appoint the student provided for in subsection (3)(a) based upon a nomination provided by a student organization designated by the board of regents. The student organization shall nominate no fewer than three qualified students. If the governor finds that none of the students nominated are acceptable, the governor may request a new slate of nominees. Nominations must be forwarded to the governor in March immediately preceding the end of a regular term, and the governor shall make the appointment before the end of the succeeding June. In the event of a vacancy, a replacement must be appointed as soon as is practicable and in the same manner as the original appointment.

History: En. Secs. 2, 11, Ch. 344, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 75-5610(part), 75-5619; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212.

2-15-1509 and 2-15-1510 reserved.

2-15-1511. Agencies allocated to state board of education. The state historical society, the Montana arts council, and the state library commission are allocated to the state board of education for purposes of planning and coordination. Budget requests to the state for these agencies shall be included with the budget requests of the state board of education; however, the governance, management, and control of the respective agencies shall be vested respectively in the board of trustees of the state historical society, the Montana arts council, and the state library commission.

History: En. 82A-501.1 by Sec. 5, Ch. 51, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-501.1.

Cross-References

State Historical Society, 2-15-1512.
Montana Arts Council, 2-15-1513.
State Library Commission, 2-15-1514.

2-15-1512. Boards and offices associated with state historical society. (1) (a) There is a board of trustees of the state historical society that is created in Title 22, chapter 3.

(b) The composition, method of appointment, terms of office, and qualifications of board members remain as prescribed by law.

(2) (a) There is a preservation review board within the Montana historical society consisting of nine members.

(b) Members must be appointed by the governor in the following manner:

(i) five professional persons recognized in the fields of archaeology, history, paleontology, historic property administration, curation, planning, landscape architecture, conservation, folklore, cultural anthropology, traditional cultural property expertise, architecture, or architectural history. However, no more than two members may be appointed from any one of these fields; and

(ii) four members of the public who represent a broad spectrum of Montana society, who have demonstrated an interest in historic preservation, and whose views reflect the rich cultural heritage of the past as well as the opportunities of the future.

(c) Each member shall serve a 4-year term. A member may be reappointed.

(d) Members must be compensated and receive travel expenses as provided for in 2-15-124.

(3) (a) There is established the historic preservation office within the Montana historical society, to consist of a historic preservation officer and a qualified professional staff.

(b) The historic preservation officer is appointed by the governor from a list of three nominees submitted to the governor by the director of the Montana historical society with the approval of the Montana historical society board of trustees.

(c) The historic preservation officer is supervised by the director of the Montana historical society.

History: (1)En. 82A-507 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 51, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 453, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-507(1), (2); (2), (3)En Secs. 1, 3, 6, Ch. 563, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 650, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Preservation of historic items, Art. IX, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
State Historical Society, Title 22, ch. 3, part 1.
Historic Preservation Office, Title 22, ch. 3, part 4.
Preservation Review Board, 22-3-422.

2-15-1513. Montana arts council. (1) There is a Montana arts council which is created in Title 22, chapter 2.

(2) The composition, method of appointment, terms of office, compensation, reimbursement, and qualifications of council members remain as prescribed by law.

History: En. 82A-508 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 51, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-508.

2-15-1514. State library commission. (1) There is a state library commission created in Title 22, chapter 1.

(2) The composition, method of appointment, terms of office, compensation, reimbursement, and qualifications of commission members are as prescribed by law.

History: (1)En. 82A-509 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 51, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-509; (2) En. Sec. 3, Ch. 650, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1985; Sec. 2-15-1018, MCA 1983; redes. 2-15-1514(2) by Code Commissioner, 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Natural resource information system, Title 90, ch. 15.

2-15-1515. Commission on federal higher education programs. (1) There is a commission on federal higher education programs that may be called into existence by the board of regents of higher education from time to time as the need arises. Whenever the commission is called into existence, the board shall request that the governor appoint members pursuant to subsection (2)(b).

(2) The commission consists of:

(a) ex officio, the appointed members of the board of regents of higher education; and

(b) a representative of each accredited private college or university in this state appointed by the governor from the board of trustees of each private college or university upon the request of the board of regents of higher education.

(3) The commission members appointed pursuant to subsection (2)(b) shall serve for the period of existence of the commission. However, the period of service may not exceed 4 years and is contingent upon continued status as a trustee. If a vacancy occurs in a position held by an individual appointed pursuant to subsection (2)(b), the governor shall appoint a replacement.

(4) The presiding officer of the board of regents of higher education is the presiding officer of the commission.

(5) The commissioner of higher education is the administrative officer of the commission.

(6) The commission is allocated to the board of regents of higher education for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

(7) The commission members are entitled to compensation as provided in 2-15-124(7).

(8) The board of regents of higher education may terminate the commission from time to time when there is no need for its existence.

History: En. 82A-512 by Sec. 3, Ch. 220, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-512; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Commission on Federal Higher Education Programs, Title 20, ch. 2, part 4.

2-15-1516. Fertilizer advisory committee. (1) There is a fertilizer advisory committee.

(2) The committee is composed of seven members, appointed jointly by the director of the Montana agricultural experiment station and the director of the Montana cooperative extension service of Montana state university-Bozeman, as follows:

(a) five members involved in agriculture that includes the use of fertilizer in production; and

(b) two members from the fertilizer industry.

(3) The director of the department of agriculture shall serve as an ex officio member.

(4) The members shall serve staggered 5-year terms, except that members shall be initially appointed so that no more than two terms expire in any year.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 397, L. 1971; Sec. 3-1732, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-513 by Sec. 99, Ch. 218, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-513; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 1985; amd. sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Funding — powers and duties, 80-10-103 through 80-10-106.

2-15-1517. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 21, L. 1985.

History: En. 75-9405 by Sec. 5, Ch. 515, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 75-9405.

2-15-1518. Director of fire services training school. (1) The board of regents shall appoint the director of the fire services training school.

(2) The director may be removed for cause.

(3) The director must have the following qualifications:

(a) a bachelor's degree in a field of study related to fire protection; or

(b) 5 years' experience in an organized training program as an instructor and 7 years' experience as a firefighter or fire combat officer.

History: En. 75-7721 by Sec. 6, Ch. 104, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 75-7721(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Fire services training school, Title 20, ch. 31.

2-15-1519. Fire services training advisory council. (1) The board of regents shall appoint a fire services training advisory council to work with the director of the fire services training school. The membership of the council must include the following:

(a) a fire chief;

(b) a volunteer firefighter;
(c) a paid firefighter;
(d) a fire service instructor;
(e) a person involved in fire prevention;
(f) a representative of the insurance industry; and
(g) a professional educator.

(2) The board shall solicit and consider the recommendations of appropriate organizations and associations of fire service personnel in making appointments under subsection (1).

(3) Members shall serve for 4-year terms and may be removed for cause. If a vacancy occurs, a member must be appointed to fill the unexpired term. A member may be reappointed.

(4) A representative of the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice, a fire control officer designated by the director of the department of natural resources and conservation, and the director of the fire services training school are ex officio members of the council.

History: En. 75-7718 by Sec. 3, Ch. 104, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 75-7718; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 20, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

2-15-1520. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 39, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 691, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 658, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1997.

2-15-1521. Cultural and aesthetic projects advisory committee. (1) There is a cultural and aesthetic projects advisory committee.

(2) The committee consists of 16 members, appointed as follows:
(a) eight members appointed by the Montana historical society board of trustees; and
(b) eight members appointed by the Montana arts council.

(3) Members serve terms of 4 years beginning January 1 following their appointment.

(4) A member may be removed by the appointing authority.

(5) All vacancies must be filled by the original appointing authority.

(6) The committee shall elect a presiding officer and a vice presiding officer.

(7) Members of the committee are entitled to compensation of $25 a day and travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, for each day in attendance at a committee meeting.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 99, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Duties of Advisory Committee — cultural and aesthetic projects, Title 22, ch. 2, part 3.

2-15-1522. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 370, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 465, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1991.

2-15-1523. Ground water assessment steering committee. (1) There is a ground water assessment steering committee consisting of an employee of each of the following state agencies that have responsibility for ground water protection, management, or information. The member must be appointed by the head of the respective state agency:
(a) the department of natural resources and conservation;
(b) the department of environmental quality;
(c) the department of agriculture; and
(d) the Montana state library, natural resource information system.

(2) The ground water assessment steering committee may include representatives of the following agencies and units of government with expertise or management responsibility related to ground water and representatives of the organizations and groups specified in subsection (2)(h), who shall serve as ex officio members:
(a) the legislative services division;
(b) the board of oil and gas conservation;
(c) the Montana bureau of mines and geology;
(d) a unit of the university system, other than the Montana bureau of mines and geology, appointed by the board of regents of higher education for the Montana university system;
(e) a county government, appointed by an organization of Montana counties;

(f) a city, town, or city-county government, appointed by an organization of Montana cities and towns;

(g) each principal federal agency that has responsibility for ground water protection, management, or research, appointed by the Montana head of the respective federal agency; and

(h) one representative of each of the following, appointed by the governor:

(i) agricultural water users;

(ii) industrial water users;

(iii) a conservation or ecological protection organization; and

(iv) the development community.

(3) The ground water assessment steering committee shall elect a presiding officer from its voting members.

(4) The Montana bureau of mines and geology shall provide staff support to the committee.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 769, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 436, L. 2009.

2-15-1524. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 300, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 489, L. 2005.

2-15-1525. Seed laboratory advisory board — duties. (1) There is a seed laboratory advisory board.

(2) (a) The board consists of:

(i) five members appointed by the director of the agricultural experiment station provided for in 20-25-222; and

(ii) the director of the agricultural experiment station, serving in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity.

(b) The five members appointed by the director of the agricultural experiment station must be selected as follows:

(i) three representatives from seed industry-related organizations;

(ii) a representative of the department of agriculture; and

(iii) a representative of the agricultural experiment station.

(c) The members appointed as representatives of seed industry-related organizations may not represent the same organization.

(3) The board shall advise the director of the agricultural experiment station on matters related to the Montana seed laboratory provided for in 20-25-229, including but not limited to:

(a) rates to be charged for seed analysis;

(b) staffing levels;

(c) budget matters; and

(d) operational procedures for the laboratory.

(4) The board shall meet at least annually and may meet more frequently as needed.

(5) Board members may request reimbursement for travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. The ex officio member is not entitled to travel expenses.

(6) The board is attached to the agricultural experiment station for administrative purposes. The agricultural experiment station shall establish operating procedures for the board that are consistent with the provisions of this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 2011.

2-15-1526 through 2-15-1529 reserved.

2-15-1530. Montana university system interunit benefits advisory committee — composition. (1) There is a Montana university system interunit benefits advisory committee with members appointed by the commissioner.

(2) The members must be selected from a diverse group in order to adequately represent the interests of the employees of the Montana university system.

(3) One-half of the members must be appointed based upon the recommendations of the labor organizations representing employees of the Montana university system.

(4) The provisions of 2-15-122(1) through (8) apply to the advisory committee and its members.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1999.

Part 16
Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing
(Renumbered and Repealed)

2-15-1601. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

History: En. 82A-1601 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1601.

2-15-1602 through 2-15-1604 reserved.

2-15-1605. Renumbered 2-15-1841. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1606. Renumbered 2-15-1842. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1607. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 87, L. 1981.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 1, p. 48, L. 1901; rep. and re-en. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1594, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3125, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3125, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 66-1401, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.20 by Sec. 140, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.20, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.20; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 247, L. 1981.

2-15-1608. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 470, L. 1981.

History: (1), (2)En. 82A-1602.6 by Sec. 356, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 176, L. 1977; Sec. 82A-1602.6, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.6; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1981.

2-15-1609. Renumbered 2-15-1843. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1610. Renumbered 2-15-1844. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1611. Renumbered 2-15-1845. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1612. Renumbered 2-15-1846. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1613. Renumbered 2-15-1847. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1614. Renumbered 2-15-1848. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1615. Renumbered 2-15-1849. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1616. Renumbered 2-15-1850. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1617. Renumbered 2-15-1851. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1618. Renumbered 2-15-1852. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1619. Renumbered 2-15-1853. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1620 through 2-15-1624 reserved.

2-15-1625. Renumbered 2-15-1856. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1626. Renumbered 2-15-1857. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1627. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 79, L. 1983.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 302, L. 1967; Sec. 66-2903, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.14 by Sec. 284, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.14, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.14; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 247, L. 1981.

2-15-1628. Renumbered 2-15-1858. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1629 and 2-15-1630 reserved.

2-15-1631. Renumbered 2-15-1861. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1632. Renumbered 2-15-1862. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1633 through 2-15-1640 reserved.

2-15-1641. Renumbered 2-15-1866. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1642. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 497, L. 1979.

History: (1) thru (4)En. 82A-1602.23 by Sec. 360, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1977; Sec. 82A-1602.23, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.23.

2-15-1643. Repealed. Sec. 195, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4139, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 66-2102, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.1 by Sec. 194, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.1, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.1.

2-15-1644. Renumbered 2-15-1867. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1645 through 2-15-1650 reserved.

2-15-1651. Renumbered 2-15-1871. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1652. Renumbered 2-15-1872. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1653. Renumbered 2-15-1873. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1654. Renumbered 2-15-1874. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1655. Renumbered 2-15-1875. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

2-15-1656. Repealed. Sec. 195, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

History: En. 82A-1602.29 by Sec. 1, Ch. 504, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602.29(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 184, L. 1979.

2-15-1657 through 2-15-1660 reserved.

2-15-1661. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 1981.

History: (1) thru (3)En. 82A-1602.4 by Sec. 355, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.4, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.4; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 247, L. 1981.

2-15-1662. Renumbered 2-15-1881. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

Part 17
Department of Labor and Industry

2-15-1701. Department of labor and industry — head. (1) There is a department of labor and industry. As prescribed in Article XII, section 2, of the Montana constitution, the department head is the commissioner of labor and industry.

(2) The commissioner must be appointed and serve as provided in 2-15-111.

(3) The commissioner must receive an annual salary in an amount equal to other department directors.

(4) Before entering on the duties of the office, the commissioner shall take and subscribe to the oath of office prescribed by the Montana constitution.

History: (1)En. 82A-1001 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; Sec. 82A-1001, R.C.M. 1947; (2) thru (4)Ap. p. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 1951; Sec. 41-1602, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 3, Ch. 177, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 225, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 237, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 100, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 343, L. 1977; Sec. 41-1603, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1602, 41-1603, 82A-1001(part); amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Constitutional mandate for Department, Art. XII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Public works — labor agreements, Title 18, ch. 2, part 4.
Labor, Title 39.
Governmental code of fair practices, Title 49, ch. 3.

2-15-1702. Repealed. Sec. 59, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

History: En. 82A-1004 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 23, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1004(part).

2-15-1703. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 349, L. 1981.

History: En. 82A-1006 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1006.

2-15-1704. Unemployment insurance appeals board — allocation — composition — function — quasi-judicial. (1) There is an unemployment insurance appeals board.

(2) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(3) The board is composed of three members of the public who are not employees of the state government, appointed by the governor as prescribed in 2-15-124. One member must be from the private business sector who owns or is employed by an entity with more than 10 employees.

(4) The governor may appoint a substitute board member to the board who is subject to the same qualifications and confirmation requirements as the regular board members as prescribed in 2-15-124 and subsection (3) of this section. The substitute board member may serve in place of any regular board member who is unable to attend a board meeting and participate in the proceedings and decisions of that board meeting. The substitute board member is entitled to the same compensation and per diem as the regular board members.

(5) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124.

History: En. 82A-1008 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1008(1) thru (3), (5); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 132, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Function of Board — unemployment insurance, 39-51-310.

2-15-1705. Board of personnel appeals — allocation — composition — vote necessary for decision — quasi-judicial. (1) There is a board of personnel appeals.

(2) The board is allocated to the department of labor and industry for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(3) (a) The board consists of five members and three substitute members appointed by the governor as follows:

(i) two members who are full-time management employees in organizations with collective bargaining units or who represent management in collective bargaining activities and a substitute member with the same qualifications as the other two members who is to serve in place of an absent member and to participate only in the decisions of the proceeding that the substitute member is attending;

(ii) two members who are full-time employees or elected officials of a labor union or an association recognized by the board and a substitute member with the same qualifications as the other two members who is to serve in place of an absent member and to participate only in the decisions of the proceeding that the substitute member is attending; and

(iii) one other member having general labor-management experience who is the presiding officer and a substitute member with the same qualifications as the other member who is to serve in place of an absent member and to participate only in the decisions of the proceeding that the substitute member is attending.

(b) All members of the board shall serve as impartial decisionmakers and are not appointed to serve the interests of the organizations they represent.

(c) A substitute board member is entitled to the same compensation and per diem when serving as the other members of the board.

(4) In all proceedings before the board, a favorable vote of at least a majority of a quorum is sufficient to adopt any resolution, motion, or other decision.

(5) The board is designated a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124.

History: En. 82A-1014 by Sec. 15, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 545, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1014(1) thru (3), (5); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 26, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 604, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 2009.

Cross-References

State personnel grievances, Title 2, ch. 18, part 10.
Collective bargaining for public employees, Title 39, ch. 31.
Arbitration for firefighters, Title 39, ch. 34.

2-15-1706. Commission for human rights — allocation — quasi-judicial. (1) There is a commission for human rights.

(2) The commission consists of five members appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate.

(3) The commission is designated as a quasi-judicial board for the purposes of 2-15-124 and its members must be compensated and receive travel expenses as provided for in 2-15-124.

(4) The commission is allocated to the department of labor and industry for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. 82A-1015 by Sec. 4, Ch. 283, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 478, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1015; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 247, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 474, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 650, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 467, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Illegal discrimination, Title 49, ch. 2.

General powers and duties of Commission, Title 49, ch. 2, part 2.

2-15-1707. Office of workers' compensation judge — allocation — appointment — salary. (1) There is the office of workers' compensation judge. The office is allocated to the department of labor and industry for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(2) The governor shall appoint the workers' compensation judge for a term of 6 years in the same manner provided by Title 3, chapter 1, part 9, for the appointment of supreme court justices or district court judges. A vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(3) To be eligible for workers' compensation judge, a person must:

(a) have the qualifications necessary for district court judges found in Article VII, section 9, of the Montana constitution;

(b) devote full time to the duties of workers' compensation judge and not engage in the private practice of law.

(4) The workers' compensation judge is entitled to the same salary and other emoluments as that of a district judge but must be accorded retirement benefits under the public employees' retirement system.

History: En. 82A-1016 by Sec. 1, Ch. 537, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1016; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 613, L. 1989; Sec. 2-15-1014, MCA 1989; redes. 2-15-1707 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Salaries of District Court Judges, 3-5-211.

Public employees' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 3.

Workers' Compensation Judge, Title 39, ch. 71, part 29.

2-15-1708. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 170, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 295, L. 1993.

2-15-1709. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 69, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 385, L. 1997.

2-15-1710 through 2-15-1729 reserved.

2-15-1730. Alternative health care board. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is an alternative health care board.

(2) The board consists of eight members:

(a) two members from each of the health care professions regulated by the board;

(b) one member who is a physician whose practice includes obstetrics; and

(c) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 524, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 314, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 492, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1840, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1730 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 11, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 620, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Coordination: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 41, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

The amendments to this section made by sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 2023, and sec. 5, Ch. 620, L. 2023, were replaced by sec. 41, Ch. 620, L. 2023, a coordination section.

2-15-1731. Board of medical examiners. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a Montana state board of medical examiners.

(2) The board consists of 12 members:

(a) five doctors of medicine, including one with experience in emergency medicine, none of whom may be from the same county;

(b) one doctor of osteopathy;

(c) one podiatrist;

(d) one nutritionist;

(e) one physician assistant;

(f) one emergency care provider, as defined in 50-6-202, who may be a volunteer emergency care provider; and

(g) two public members.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (5) En. Sec. 4, Ch. 338, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 203, L. 1971; Sec. 66-1013, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.15 by Sec. 92, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1975; Sec. 82A-1602.15, R.C.M. 1947; (6)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.15; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1605; redes. 2-15-1841 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 470, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 529, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 419, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 1995; Sec. 2-15-1841, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1731 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 519, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 82, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 620, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 42, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

The amendments to this section made by sec. 2, Ch. 275, L. 2023, and sec. 6, Ch. 620, L. 2023, were replaced by sec. 42, Ch. 620, L. 2023, a coordination section.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Medicine, Title 37, ch. 3.
Nutritionists, Title 37, ch. 25.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1732. Board of dentistry. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of dentistry.

(2) The board consists of ten members:

(a) five dentists;

(b) one denturist;

(c) two dental hygienists; and

(d) two public members.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 3115.1, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 66-901, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.9 by Sec. 76, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.9, R.C.M. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1979; (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1979; (5)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.9; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1606; redes. 2-15-1842 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 363, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 524, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 331, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 481, L. 1997; Sec. 2-15-1842, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1732 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Dentistry and dental hygiene, Title 37, ch. 4.
Denturitry, Title 37, ch. 29.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1733. Board of pharmacy. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of pharmacy.

(2) The board consists of six members:

(a) four pharmacists;

(b) one pharmacy technician; and

(c) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 643, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1625, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4, Ch. 134, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 3173, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3173, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 175, L. 1939; Sec. 66-1503, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.21 by Sec. 149, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.21, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.21; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 244, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1609; redes. 2-15-1843 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 362, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 388, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1843, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1733 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Pharmacy, Title 37, ch. 7.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1734. Board of nursing. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of nursing.

(2) The board consists of eight members. The members are:

(a) five registered professional nurses, including:

(i) at least one with experience in administration, teaching, or supervision in one or more schools of nursing;

(ii) at least one advanced practice registered nurse;

(iii) at least one engaged in nursing practice in a rural health care facility; and

(iv) at least one engaged in the administration, supervision, or provision of direct client care;

(b) two practical nurses; and

(c) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (4)En. 82A-1602.18 by Sec. 357, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.18, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.18; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 247, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 248, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1610; redes. 2-15-1844 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 1987; Sec. 2-15-1844, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1734 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 126, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 9, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Nursing, Title 37, ch. 8.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1735. Board of nursing home administrators. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of nursing home administrators.

(2) The board consists of six members:

(a) three nursing home administrators;

(b) two representatives of professions or institutions concerned with the care of chronically ill and infirm aged patients that may not be from the same profession or have a financial interest in a nursing home; and

(c) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (5)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 363, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 434, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 483, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1974; Sec. 66-3102, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.17 by Sec. 306, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1975; Sec. 82A-1602.17, R.C.M. 1947; (6)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.17(1) thru (6); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 244, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1611; redes. 2-15-1845 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 546, L. 1995; Sec. 2-15-1845, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1735 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 107, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 10, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Nursing home administrators, Title 37, ch. 9.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1736. Board of optometry. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of optometry.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) four optometrists; and

(b) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (3)En. 82A-1602.19 by Sec. 358, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.19, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.19; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1612; redes. 2-15-1846 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 543, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1993; Sec. 2-15-1846, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1736 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 11, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Optometry, Title 37, ch. 10.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1737. Board of chiropractors. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of chiropractors.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) four chiropractors; and

(b) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (3)En. I.M., Nov. 1918; effective under governor's proclamation, Dec. 28, 1918; re-en. Sec. 3138, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3138, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 66-501, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.7 by Sec. 45, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 579, L. 1977; Sec. 82A-1602.7, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.7; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 155, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1613; redes. 2-15-1847 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; Sec. 2-15-1847, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1737 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 56, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 12, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Chiropractic, Title 37, ch. 12.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1738. Board of radiologic technologists. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of radiologic technologists.

(2) The board consists of five members:
(a) one radiologist;
(b) one limited permit technician;
(c) two radiologic technologists; and
(d) one public member.
(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. 82A-1602.28 by Sec. 3, Ch. 336, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602.28(part); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1614; redes. 2-15-1848 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 1985; Sec. 2-15-1848, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1738 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 109, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 13, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Radiologic technologists, Title 37, ch. 14.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1739. Board of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

(2) The board consists of five members:
(a) two speech-language pathologists;
(b) two audiologists; and
(c) one public member.
(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. 82A-1602.31 by Sec. 5, Ch. 543, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602.31(part); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 244, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1615; redes. 2-15-1849 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 1989; Sec. 2-15-1849, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1739 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 14, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Speech-language pathologists and audiologists, Title 37, ch. 15.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1740. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 483, L. 2023.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 204, L. 1969; Sec. 66-3004, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.12 by Sec. 293, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.12, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.12; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 244, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1616; redes. 2-15-1850 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 404, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 481, L. 1997; Sec. 2-15-1850, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1740 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 109, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 56, L. 2015.

2-15-1741. Board of psychologists. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of psychologists.

(2) The board consists of six members:

(a) two psychologists engaged in private practice;

(b) one psychologist engaged in public health;

(c) one psychologist engaged in the teaching of psychology;

(d) one behavior analyst; and

(e) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 73, L. 1971; Sec. 66-3204, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.27 by Sec. 314, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602.27; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1617; redes. 2-15-1851 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 324, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 671, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 230, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 492, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1851, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1741 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 109, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 16, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Psychologists, Title 37, ch. 17.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1742. Board of veterinary medicine. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of veterinary medicine.

(2) The board consists of seven members:

(a) five veterinarians;

(b) one veterinary technician; and

(c) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as provided in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3217, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3217, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1955; Sec. 66-2201, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.24 by Sec. 204, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 135, L. 1975; Sec. 82A-1602.24, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.24; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 244, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1618; amd. and redes. 2-15-1852 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 483, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1852, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1742 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 392, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 17, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Veterinary medicine and technology, Title 37, ch. 18.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1743. Board of funeral service. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of funeral service.

(2) The board consists of six members:

(a) three morticians;

(b) one crematory operator or a mortician engaged in a crematory operation;

(c) one representative of a cemetery company governed by Title 37, chapter 19, part 8; and

(d) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 41, L. 1963; Sec. 66-2702, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.16 by Sec. 261, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 1977; Sec. 82A-1602.16, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974;

amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.16; MCA 1979, 2-15-1619; redes. 2-15-1853 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 378, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 38, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1997; Sec. 2-15-1853, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1743 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 18, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Morticians and funeral services, Title 37, ch. 19.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1744. Board of behavioral health. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of behavioral health.

(2) The board consists of 11 members:
(a) three clinical social workers;
(b) three professional counselors;
(c) two addiction counselors;
(d) one certified behavioral peer support specialist;
(e) one marriage and family therapist; and
(f) one public member.
(3) The board is allocated to the department as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 544, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 572, L. 1985; (2)En. Sec. 16, Ch. 572, L. 1985; Sec. 2-15-1854, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1744 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 11, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 109, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 130, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 479, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 19, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Professional counseling, Title 37, ch. 23.

2-15-1745. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 293, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 294, L. 2005.

2-15-1746. Repealed. Sec. 23, Ch. 243, L. 2003.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 127, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 3228.24. R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 66-406, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and. redes. 82A-1602.5 by Sec. 38, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.5, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.5; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1625; redes. 2-15-1856 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 544, L. 1981; Sec. 2-15-1856, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1746 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1747. Board of barbers and cosmetologists. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of barbers and cosmetologists.

(2) The board consists of nine members:
(a) two cosmetologists;
(b) one esthetician;
(c) two barbers or barbers nonchemical;
(d) one manicurist;
(e) two members who are affiliated, with a school regulated under Title 37, chapter 31; and
(f) one public member.
(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 104, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 3228.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 222, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 244, L. 1961; Sec. 66-804, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 82A-1602.8 and amd. by Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 511, L. 1977; Sec. 82A-1602.8, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.8; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 106, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 247, L.

1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1626; redes. 2-15-1857 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1989; Sec. 2-15-1857, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1747 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 544, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 20, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Barbering, cosmetology, electrology, esthetics, and manicuring, Title 37, ch. 31.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1748. Board of physical therapy examiners. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of physical therapy examiners.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) four physical therapists; and

(b) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 491, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 244, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1628; redes. 2-15-1858 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 83, L. 1989; Sec. 2-15-1858, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1748 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 109, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 21, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Governmental agencies liable for torts, Art. II, sec. 18, Mont. Const.; 2-9-102.
Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
General provisions relating to health care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2.
Physical therapy, Title 37, ch. 11.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1749. Board of occupational therapy practice. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of occupational therapy practice.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) three occupational therapists; and

(b) two public members.

(3) The board is allocated to the department of labor and industry as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 629, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 483, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1859, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1749 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 22, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Occupational therapy, Title 37, ch. 24.

2-15-1750. Board of respiratory care practitioners. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of respiratory care practitioners.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) three respiratory care practitioners;

(b) one respiratory care practitioner who specializes in pulmonary functions or sleep studies; and

(c) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 532, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 483, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1860, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1750 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 11, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 109, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 23, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Respiratory care practitioners, Title 37, ch. 28.

2-15-1751. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 484, L. 2023.

History: En. 69-3412, 69-3413 by Secs. 3, 4, Ch. 314, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3412, 69-3413(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 149, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1631; redes. 2-15-1861 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; Sec. 2-15-1861, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1751 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 126, L. 2005.

2-15-1752 reserved.

2-15-1753. Board of clinical laboratory science practitioners. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of clinical laboratory science practitioners.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) four clinical laboratory science practitioners; and

(b) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 345, L. 1993; Sec. 2-15-1863, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1753 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 11, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 109, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 25, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Board duties, 37-34-201.

2-15-1754 and 2-15-1755 reserved.

2-15-1756. Board of public accountants. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of public accountants.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) four certified public accountants; and

(b) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department of labor and industry as prescribed in 2-15-121, except that the provisions of 2-15-121(2)(b) do not apply.

History: (1) thru (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 1969; Sec. 66-1813, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.2 by Sec. 161, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.2, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.2; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 684, L. 1979; MCA 1979, 2-15-1641, redes. 2-15-1866 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1989; Sec. 2-15-1866, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1756 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 126, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 109, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 169, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 427, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 26, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Termination Provision Repealed: Section 2, Ch. 183, L. 2023, repealed sec. 10, Ch. 427, L. 2015, and sec. 5, Ch. 50, L. 2019, which terminated the 2015 amendments to this section September 30, 2023. Effective April 19, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Public accountants, Title 37, ch. 50.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1757. Board of realty regulation. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of realty regulation.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) four real estate brokers or salespeople; and

(b) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 497, L. 1979; MCA 1979, 2-15-1644; redes. 2-15-1867 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 52, L. 1993; Sec. 2-15-1867, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1757 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 56, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 620, L. 2023, Sec. 45, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 45, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

The amendments to this section made by sec. 9, Ch. 482, L. 2023, and sec. 27, Ch. 620, L. 2023, were replaced by sec. 45, Ch. 620, L. 2023, a coordination section.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Real estate brokers and salesmen law, Title 37, ch. 51.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1758. Board of real estate appraisers. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of real estate appraisers.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) four real estate appraisers, of whom two members are certified general appraisers and two members are certified residential appraisers; and

(b) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 409, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 492, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1868, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1758 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 28, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Real estate appraisers, Title 37, ch. 54.

2-15-1759 and 2-15-1760 reserved.

2-15-1761. Board of architects and landscape architects. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of architects and landscape architects.

(2) The board consists of six members:

(a) three architects;

(b) two landscape architects; and

(c) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1), (2), (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 3229, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3229, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 1973; Sec. 66-101, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.3 by Sec. 24, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.3, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 388, L. 1979; (5)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.3; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 388, L. 1979; MCA 1979, 2-15-1651; redes. 2-15-1871 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995; Sec. 2-15-1871, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1761 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 11, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 29, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Architecture, Title 37, ch. 65.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1762. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 11, L. 2007.

History: En. 82A-1602.30 by Sec. 8, Ch. 476, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 453, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602.30(part (1)), (3); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 325, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1652; amd. and redes. 2-15-1872 by Secs. 3 and 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 483, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1872, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1762 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1763. Board of professional engineers and professional land surveyors. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of professional engineers and professional land surveyors.

(2) The board consists of nine members:

(a) five professional engineers who have been in responsible charge of engineering work or have teaching experience at one or more schools of engineering. No more than two of these members may be from the same branch of engineering.

(b) two professional and practicing land surveyors who have been in responsible charge of land surveying; and

(c) two public members.

(3) Each member must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state. A member, after serving three consecutive terms, may not be reappointed.

(4) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (4)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 150, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 282, L. 1969; Sec. 66-2327, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.11 by Sec. 215, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 366, L. 1975; Sec. 82A-1602.11, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.11; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1653; redes. 2-15-1873 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 492, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1873, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1763 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 30, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Engineers and land surveyors, Title 37, ch. 67.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1764. State electrical board. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a state electrical board.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) one master electrician;

(b) one journeyman electrician;

(c) one electrician who is a master licensed electrician or a licensed electrician who holds an unlimited electrical contractor license; and

(d) two public members.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 148, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 374, L. 1973; Sec. 66-2804, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-1602.10 by Sec. 271, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 439, L. 1975; Sec. 82A-1602.10, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.10(1) thru (3); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 546, L. 1979; MCA 1979, 2-15-1654; redes. 2-15-1874 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; Sec. 2-15-1874, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1764 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 31, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Electricians and electrical safety, Title 37, ch. 68.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1765. Board of plumbers. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of plumbers.

(2) The board consists of seven members:

(a) two master plumbers;

(b) two journey level plumbers;

(c) one professional engineer qualified in mechanical engineering;

(d) one representative of the department of environmental quality, who must have experience in the regulation of drinking water systems; and

(e) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: (1) thru (3)En. 82A-1602.22 by Sec. 359, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.22, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.22; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 549, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 247, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 2-15-1655; redes. 2-15-1875 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1999; Sec. 2-15-1875, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1765 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 32, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Plumbing, Title 37, ch. 69.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1766 through 2-15-1770 reserved.

2-15-1771. Board of athletic trainers. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of athletic trainers.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) one physician, preferably with a background in the practice of sports medicine;

(b) three athletic trainers:

(i) one athletic trainer with experience in one or more postsecondary educational institutions;

(ii) one athletic trainer with experience in one or more secondary schools; and

(iii) one athletic trainer with experience in one or more health care or athletic facilities; and

(c) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(4) Members must be compensated as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 388, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 33, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

2-15-1772. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 11, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 483, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1882, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1772 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 126, L. 2005.

2-15-1773. Board of outfitters. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123, there is a board of outfitters.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) one outfitter licensed for both hunting and fishing, representing a public land hunting and fishing outfitter knowledgeable in government permitting and preferably with a packing endorsement;

(b) one fishing outfitter;

(c) one outfitter representing a private land hunting outfit;

(d) one hunting and fishing outfitter, with their business being predominately fishing; and

(e) one public member who is a Montana-based business owner who engages in nonoutfitted business that is reliant on the local outdoor recreation industry.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. 82A-2005 by Sec. 57, Ch. 511, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 545, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 192, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 528, L. 1987; Sec. 2-15-3403, MCA

1985; redes. 2-15-1883 by Sec. 11, Ch. 528, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 501, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 543, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 483, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-1883, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1773 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 328, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 56, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 281, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 34, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July1, 2023.

Cross-References

Outfitters and guides, Title 37, ch. 47.

2-15-1774 through 2-15-1780 reserved.

2-15-1781. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 481, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 550, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; Sec. 2-15-1891, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-1781 by Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 405, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

2-15-1782. Board of massage therapy. (1) In accordance with 37-1-123 there is a board of massage therapy.

(2) The board consists of five members:

(a) one health care provider who is not an owner of a school that educates massage therapists;

(b) three massage therapists, none of whom may be an owner of a school that educates massage therapists. None of the three massage therapists may belong to the same national professional association.

(c) one public member.

(3) The board is allocated to the department as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 451, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 620, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 36, Ch. 620, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Part 18
Department of Commerce

2-15-1801. Department of commerce — head. There is a department of commerce. The department head is a director of commerce appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-111.

History: En. 82A-401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 141, Ch. 431, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-401; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Unfair trade practices and consumer protection, Art. XIII, sec. 1(2), Mont. Const.; Title 30, ch. 14.
Trade and Commerce, Title 30.
Weights, measures, and standards — specific powers of Department of Labor and Industry — rules, 30-12-202.
Consumer reporting agencies, Title 31, ch. 3, part 1.
Financial Institutions, Title 32.
Banks and trust companies — examination and supervision, 32-1-211.
Identification and acquisition of railroad rights-of-way by Department, 60-11-111.

2-15-1802. Renumbered 2-15-3105. Sec. 9, Ch. 333, L. 1995.

2-15-1803. Renumbered 2-15-1025. Sec. 221(3), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1804. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 133, L. 2001; sec. 217, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

History: En. 75-9205 by Sec. 5, Ch. 296, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 75-9205(part).

2-15-1805. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 581, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 677, Sec. 27, Ch. 686, and Sec. 29, Ch. 701, L. 1983.

2-15-1806. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 581, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 686, and Sec. 30, Ch. 701, L. 1983.

2-15-1807. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 581, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 677, L. 1983.

2-15-1808. Board of investments — allocation — composition — quasi-judicial. (1) There is a board of investments within the department of commerce.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes as prescribed in 2-15-121. The board may employ a chief investment officer and an executive director who have general responsibility for selection and management of the board's staff and for direct investment and economic development activities. The board shall prescribe the duties and annual salaries of the chief investment officer, executive director, and six professional staff positions. The chief investment officer, executive director, and six professional staff serve at the pleasure of the board.

(3) The board is composed of nine members appointed by the governor, as prescribed in 2-15-124, and two ex officio, nonvoting members. The members are:

(a) one member from the public employees' retirement board, provided for in 2-15-1009, and one member from the teachers' retirement board provided for in 2-15-1010. If either member of the respective retirement boards ceases to be a member of the retirement board, the position of that member on the board of investments is vacant, and the governor shall fill the vacancy in accordance with 2-15-124.

(b) seven members who will provide a balance of professional expertise and public interest and accountability, who are informed and experienced in the subject of investments, and who are representatives of:

(i) the financial community;

(ii) small business;

(iii) agriculture; and

(iv) labor; and

(c) two ex officio, nonvoting legislative liaisons to the board, of which one must be a senator appointed by the president of the senate and one must be a representative appointed by the speaker of the house. The liaisons may not be from the same political party. Preference in appointments is to be given to legislators who have a background in investments or finance. The legislative liaisons shall serve from appointment through each even-numbered calendar year and may attend all board meetings. Legislative liaisons appointed pursuant to this subsection (3)(c) are entitled to compensation and expenses, as provided in 5-2-302, to be paid by the legislative council.

(4) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for the purposes of 2-15-124.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 581, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 330, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Investment of public funds, Art. VIII, sec. 13, Mont. Const.

Economic development bonds — issuance, Title 17, ch. 5, part 15.

Municipal Finance Consolidation Act, Title 17, ch. 5, part 16.

Unified investments, Title 17, ch. 6, part 2.

2-15-1809. Board of horseracing. (1) There is a board of horseracing.

(2) (a) The board consists of seven members, appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate, who must be citizens, residents, and qualified electors of this state.

(b) Two board members must be in the horseracing industry and may not represent the same district as described in subsection (3). The other five members may not be in the horseracing industry.

(c) A member of the board may not wager at any licensed racing meet in this state.

(3) Except for members appointed pursuant to subsection (2)(b), the governor may not appoint any member who would have a conflict of interest during the member's term of appointment. The governor shall appoint, on the basis of experience and qualifications, one member from each of the following districts:

(a) first district, consisting of Blaine, Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley, and Wibaux Counties;

(b) second district, consisting of Big Horn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Wheatland, and Yellowstone Counties;

(c) third district, consisting of Cascade, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, and Toole Counties;

(d) fourth district, consisting of Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, and Silver Bow Counties; and

(e) fifth district, consisting of Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Missoula, Mineral, Powell, Ravalli, and Sanders Counties.

(4) Each member shall serve for a term of 3 years. The terms of the members must be staggered. A member may be removed from office by the governor only for cause.

(5) A board member may be reappointed by the governor. A vacancy on the board must be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the governor, with the consent of the senate, as provided in this section.

(6) The board is allocated to the department of commerce for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: **(1) thru (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 457, L. 1973; Sec. 62-501, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 82A-1602.13 by Sec. 12, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.13, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.13; MCA 1979, 2-15-1662; redes. 2-15-1881 by Sec; 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 563, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 353, L. 1995; Sec. 2-15-1881, MCA 1999; redes. 2-15-3106 by Sec. 221(4), Ch. 483, L. 2001; Sec. 2-15-3106, MCA 2011; redes. 2-15-1809 by Sec. 2, Ch. 402, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102, 2-4-631.
Horseracing, Title 23, ch. 4.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-1810. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 316, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 701, L. 1985.**

2-15-1811. Renumbered 2-15-1026. Sec. 221(3), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1812. Renumbered 2-15-2506. Sec. 17, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

2-15-1813. Renumbered 2-15-217. Sec. 2, Ch. 52, L. 1995.

2-15-1814. Board of housing — allocation — composition — quasi-judicial. (1) There is a board of housing.

(2) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor as provided in 2-15-124. The members must be informed and experienced in housing, economics, or finance.

(3) The board shall elect a presiding officer and other necessary officers.

(4) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124.

(5) The board is allocated to the department of commerce for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

(6) In compliance with the state pay plan, the department shall provide all staff and services to the board that are determined by the board in conjunction with the department to be necessary for the purposes of carrying out the board's programs. The department shall assess the board for reasonable costs.

(7) A member of the board may not be considered to have a conflict of interest under the provisions of 2-2-201 merely because the member is a stockholder, officer, or employee of a lending institution that may participate in the board's programs.

History: **En. 82A-224 by Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-224; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 143, L. 1979; MCA 1979, 2-15-1008; redes. 2-15-1814 by Sec. 11, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

State pay plan, Title 2, ch. 18, part 3.
Financing of housing, Title 90, ch. 6, part 1.

2-15-1815. Montana facility finance authority. (1) There is created a public body corporate designated as the Montana facility finance authority. This authority is constituted a public instrumentality, and its exercise of the powers conferred by Title 90, chapter 7, must be considered and held to be the performance of an essential public function.

(2) The authority consists of seven members appointed by the governor as prescribed in 2-15-124. The board must be broadly representative of the state, seeking to balance professional expertise and public accountability.

(3) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for the purposes of 2-15-124.

(4) The board is allocated to the department of commerce for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121. The board has authority over its own personnel as provided in 90-7-203.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 703, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Health facility development — duties of Authority, Title 90, ch. 7.

2-15-1816. Tourism advisory council. (1) There is created a tourism advisory council.

(2) The council is composed of not more than 9 members appointed by the governor from Montana's private sector travel industry and includes at least one member from Indian tribal governments and one tribal member from the private sector, with representation from each tourism region initially established by executive order of the governor and as may be modified by the council under subsection (5).

(3) Members of the council shall serve staggered 3-year terms, subject to replacement at the discretion of the governor.

(4) The council shall:

(a) oversee distribution of funds to regional nonprofit tourism corporations for tourism promotion, nonprofit convention and visitors bureaus, and the state-tribal economic development commission established in 90-1-131 on behalf of an Indian tourism region in accordance with Title 15, chapter 65, part 1, and this section;

(b) advise the department of commerce relative to tourism promotion;

(c) advise the governor on significant matters relative to Montana's travel industry;

(d) prescribe allowable administrative expenses for which accommodation tax proceeds may be used by regional nonprofit tourism corporations and nonprofit convention and visitors bureaus;

(e) direct the university system regarding Montana travel research;

(f) approve all travel research programs prior to their being undertaken;

(g) encourage the state-tribal economic development commission and regional nonprofit tourism corporations to promote tourist activities on Indian reservations in their regions;

(h) encourage regional nonprofit tourism corporations and nonprofit convention and visitors bureaus receiving money under subsection (4)(a) to promote public and nonprofit history museums in their regions; and

(i) urge the department of transportation to include museums recognized by the museums association of Montana when it updates and publishes the state maps.

(5) The council may modify the tourism regions established by executive order of the governor.

(6) The department of commerce shall adopt rules to implement and administer Title 15, chapter 65, part 1, and this section.

History: En. Secs. 9, 12, Ch. 607, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 301, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 405, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption of administrative rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Lodging facility use tax — rulemaking authority of Department of Revenue, 15-65-102.

2-15-1817. Renumbered 2-15-3015. Code Commissioner, 1989.

2-15-1818. Repealed. Secs. 13, 16(1), Ch. 549, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 316, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 594, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 549, L. 1997.

2-15-1819. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 167, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 563, L. 1999.

2-15-1820. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 471, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 2003.

2-15-1821. Coal board — allocation — composition. (1) There is a coal board composed of seven members.

(2) The coal board is allocated to the department of commerce for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(3) The governor shall appoint a seven-member coal board, as provided under 2-15-124.

(4) (a) Subject to subsections (4)(b) and (4)(c), the members of the coal board are selected as follows:

(i) two from the impact areas; and

(ii) two with expertise in education.

(b) At least two but not more than four members must be appointed from each district provided for in 2-15-156.

(c) In making the appointments, the governor shall consider people from the following fields:

(i) business;

(ii) engineering;

(iii) public administration; and

(iv) planning.

History: **En. 50-1804 by Sec. 5, Ch. 502, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 540, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 50-1804; MCA 1979, 2-15-1104; amd. and redes. 2-15-1821 by Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 52, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 254, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 285, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Coal impacts — evaluation and abatement funding, Title 90, ch. 6, part 2.

2-15-1822. Hard-rock mining impact board. (1) There is a hard-rock mining impact board.

(2) The hard-rock mining impact board is a five-member board.

(3) (a) Subject to subsections (3)(b) and (3)(c), the hard-rock mining impact board must include among its members:

(i) a representative of the hard-rock mining industry;

(ii) a representative of a major financial institution in Montana;

(iii) a person who, when appointed to the board, is an elected school district trustee;

(iv) a person who, when appointed to the board, is an elected county commissioner;

(v) a member of the public at large.

(b) Three persons appointed to the board must reside in an area impacted or expected to be impacted by large-scale mineral development.

(c) At least two persons must be appointed from each district provided for in 2-15-156.

(4) The hard-rock mining impact board is a quasi-judicial board subject to the provisions of 2-15-124 except that one of the members need not be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state. The board shall elect a presiding officer from among its members.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 617, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 582, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 52, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 254, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 285, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Hard-rock mining impacts, Title 90, ch. 6, parts 3 and 4.

2-15-1823 through 2-15-1839 reserved.

2-15-1840. Renumbered 2-15-1730. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1841. Renumbered 2-15-1731. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1842. Renumbered 2-15-1732. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1843. Renumbered 2-15-1733. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1844. Renumbered 2-15-1734. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1845. Renumbered 2-15-1735. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1846. Renumbered 2-15-1736. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1847. Renumbered 2-15-1737. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1848. Renumbered 2-15-1738. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1849. Renumbered 2-15-1739. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1850. Renumbered 2-15-1740. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1851. Renumbered 2-15-1741. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1852. Renumbered 2-15-1742. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1853. Renumbered 2-15-1743. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1854. Renumbered 2-15-1744. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1855. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 524, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 7, I.M. No. 97, approved Nov. 6, 1984; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 548, L. 1985.

2-15-1856. Renumbered 2-15-1746. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1857. Renumbered 2-15-1747. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1858. Renumbered 2-15-1748. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1859. Renumbered 2-15-1749. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1860. Renumbered 2-15-1750. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1861. Renumbered 2-15-1751. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1862. Renumbered 2-15-3307. Sec. 12, Ch. 728, L. 1985.

2-15-1863. Renumbered 2-15-1753. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1864 and 2-15-1865 reserved.

2-15-1866. Renumbered 2-15-1756. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1867. Renumbered 2-15-1757. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1868. Renumbered 2-15-1758. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1869. Montana council on developmental disabilities. (1) The governor shall appoint a Montana council on developmental disabilities in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402, codified at 42 U.S.C. 15001, et seq.

(2) In addition to the members appointed under subsection (1), the council must include one member of the senate and one member of the house of representatives.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), members of the council serve 1-year terms.

(b) Of the members described in 42 U.S.C. 15025(b)(3) who represent persons with developmental disabilities and parents or relatives of persons with developmental disabilities, the governor shall appoint:

(i) not less than one-half of the members to serve for terms concurrent with the gubernatorial term and until their successors are appointed; and

(ii) the remaining members to serve for terms ending on January 1 of the third year of the succeeding gubernatorial term and until their successors are appointed.

(4) Members appointed to the council may also be selected to represent the geographical regions and the racial and ethnic composition of the state, including American Indians.

(5) A council member, unless the member is a full-time salaried officer or employee of this state or any of the political subdivisions of this state, is entitled to be paid in an amount to be determined by the council, not to exceed $25, for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of council duties. A council member is also entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred while in the performance of council duties as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Members who are full-time salaried officers or employees of this state or any political subdivisions of this state are not entitled to be compensated for their service as members but are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

(6) The council shall:

(a) advise the department of public health and human services, other state agencies, tribal governments, councils, local governments, and private organizations on programs for services to persons with developmental disabilities; and

(b) serve in any capacity required by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402, or by other federal law for the administration of federal programs for services to persons with developmental disabilities.

(7) (a) Unless the state enters a contract with a nonprofit corporation as provided in 2-15-1870, the council:

(i) is allocated to the department of commerce for administrative purposes only and, unless inconsistent with this section, the provisions of 2-15-121 apply;

(ii) may elect from among its members the officers necessary for the proper management of the council;

(iii) may adopt rules governing its own organization and procedures, and a majority of the members of the council constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business; and

(iv) shall employ and fix the compensation and duties of necessary staff and control the location of its office.

(b) The department of commerce shall remain the designated state agency for funding purposes if the responsibilities of the council are delegated by contract to a nonprofit corporation as provided in 2-15-1870.

History: **En. 71-2406 by Sec. 5, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 559, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2406(1) thru (3), (10); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 478, L. 2003; Sec. 2-15-2204, MCA 2001; redes. 2-15-1869 by Sec. 5, Ch. 478, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 78, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Developmental disabilities, Title 53, ch. 20.

2-15-1870. Montana council on developmental disabilities — contract with nonprofit corporation. The state may contract with a nonprofit corporation for the purposes of carrying out the responsibilities delegated to the Montana council on developmental disabilities appointed pursuant to 2-15-1869 in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402, and this section. Approval of the contract delegating the responsibilities of the council to a nonprofit corporation must be in the form of a letter signed by the secretary of the federal department of health and human services or the secretary's designee.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 478, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 78, L. 2005.**

2-15-1871. Renumbered 2-15-1761. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1872. Renumbered 2-15-1762. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1873. Renumbered 2-15-1763. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1874. Renumbered 2-15-1764. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1875. Renumbered 2-15-1765. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1876 through 2-15-1880 reserved.

2-15-1881. Renumbered 2-15-3106. Sec. 221(4), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1882. Renumbered 2-15-1772. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1883. Renumbered 2-15-1773. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1884 through 2-15-1890 reserved.

2-15-1891. Renumbered 2-15-1781. Sec. 221(2), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

2-15-1892 through 2-15-1895 reserved.

2-15-1896. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 346, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 483, L. 1989.**

Part 19
Insurance and Investment

2-15-1901. Office of securities commissioner. There is an office of securities commissioner, and the state auditor of Montana is hereby made and constituted ex officio securities commissioner.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 15-2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 351, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

State Auditor, 2-15-601.
Securities regulation, Title 30, ch. 10.
General powers and duties of Commissioner, 30-10-107, 30-10-206.

2-15-1902. Insurance department. (1) There is an insurance department of this state which shall be located in or convenient to the office occupied by the state auditor.

(2) The insurance department shall be under the control and supervision of the commissioner.

(3) Funds adequate for the maintenance and operation of the insurance department shall be expressly appropriated by the legislature and shall be used solely for the purposes for which so appropriated.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 286, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 40-2702.

Cross-References

Insurance and Insurance Companies, Title 33.
General powers and duties of Insurance Department, Title 33, ch. 1, part 3.

2-15-1903. Commissioner of insurance designated. The state auditor shall be ex officio the commissioner of insurance of this state.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 286, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 40-2701.

Cross-References

State Auditor, 2-15-601.

Part 20
Department of Justice

2-15-2001. Department of justice — head. There is a department of justice. The department head is the attorney general.

History: En. 82A-1201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 250, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1201.

Cross-References

General duties of Attorney General, 2-15-501.
Law Enforcement, Title 44.

2-15-2002. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

History: En. 82A-1204 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1204.

2-15-2003. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-414(1).

2-15-2004. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

History: En. 82-429 by Sec. 3, Ch. 530, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-429; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 184, L. 1979.

2-15-2005. State fire prevention and investigation section. (1) There is a state fire prevention and investigation section in the department of justice and under the supervision and control of the attorney general.

(2) A person appointed to administer the fire prevention and investigation section shall represent the state of Montana as the state fire marshal and must be a person qualified by experience, training, and high professional competence in matters of fire service and safety.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2737, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2737, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 187, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 519, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1201; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 449, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 2013.

Cross-References

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.
Fireworks, Title 50, ch. 37.
Fire safety in public buildings, Title 50, ch. 61.
Fire safety in child-care facilities, 52-2-734.

2-15-2006. Renumbered 2-15-2306. Sec. 25(4), Ch. 384, L. 2017.

2-15-2007. Renumbered 2-15-2507. Sec. 99(2), Ch. 51, L. 1999.

2-15-2008. Board of crime control — composition — allocation. (1) There is a board of crime control.

(2) The board is allocated to the department of justice for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121. However, the board may hire its own personnel and 2-15-121(2)(d) does not apply.

(3) (a) The board is composed of 18 members appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-124 and any special requirements of Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, as amended. The board must be representative of state and local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, including agencies directly related to the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency, units of general local government, and public agencies maintaining programs to reduce and control crime and must include representatives of citizens and professional and community organizations, including organizations directly related to delinquency prevention.

(b) One member must represent organizations that provide services and support to crime victims.

History: **En. 82A-1207 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 202, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1207(1) thru (3); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 184, L. 1979; Sec. 2-15-2006, MCA 2015; redes. 2-15-2306 by Sec. 25(4)(a)(i), Ch. 384, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 416, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 2021; Sec. 2-15-2306, MCA 2019; redes. 2-15-2008 by Sec. 4, Ch. 5, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Board of Crime Control, 44-7-101.

2-15-2009 and 2-15-2010 reserved.

2-15-2011. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 1993.

History: **En. 82-425, 82-426 by Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 522, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-425, 82-426; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1985.**

2-15-2012. Renumbered 44-7-301. Sec. 42, Ch. 3, L. 2019.

2-15-2013. Renumbered 44-7-302. Sec. 42, Ch. 3, L. 2019.

2-15-2014. Renumbered 44-7-303. Sec. 42, Ch. 3, L. 2019.

2-15-2015. Workers' compensation fraud investigation and prosecution office. (1) There is a workers' compensation fraud investigation and prosecution office in the department of justice. The office shall investigate and prosecute cases referred by the state compensation insurance fund or the department of labor and industry on behalf of the uninsured employers' fund. The office is under the supervision and control of the attorney general and consists of:

(a) one or more investigators qualified by education, training, experience, and high professional competence in investigative procedures who shall investigate violations of the provisions of Title 39, chapter 71, at the request of the state compensation insurance fund or the department of labor and industry on behalf of the uninsured employers' fund; and

(b) one or more attorneys licensed to practice law in Montana who shall prosecute violations of the provisions of Title 39, chapter 71. The attorneys may also assist county attorneys in prosecuting violations of Title 39, chapter 71, without charge to the county.

(2) The state compensation insurance fund, the department of labor and industry, and the department of justice shall submit to the legislature for approval one proposed biennial budget for the workers' compensation fraud office. The proposed budget for staffing and related expenses must be based upon the needs of the state compensation insurance fund and the department of labor and industry on behalf of the uninsured employers' fund for investigating and prosecuting workers' compensation fraud.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 276, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 416, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

State Fund fraud detection and prevention unit, 39-71-211.

2-15-2016. Office of victims services. There is an office of victims services in the department of justice. The office shall ensure that victims and witnesses of crime receive fair and proper treatment in the criminal justice system and that they are provided important services and assistance required by Title 46, chapter 24. The office is under the supervision and control of the attorney general.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 2001.**

2-15-2017. Domestic violence fatality review commission — confidentiality of meetings and records — criminal liability for unauthorized disclosure — report to legislature. (1) There is a domestic violence fatality review commission in the department of justice.

(2) The commission shall:

(a) examine the trends and patterns of domestic violence-related fatalities in Montana;

(b) educate the public, service providers, and policymakers about domestic violence fatalities and strategies for intervention and prevention; and

(c) recommend policies, practices, and services that may encourage collaboration and reduce fatalities due to domestic violence.

(3) The members of the commission, not to exceed 18, are appointed by the attorney general from among the following disciplines:

(a) representatives from state departments that are involved in issues of domestic abuse;

(b) representatives of private organizations that are involved in issues of domestic abuse;

(c) medical and mental health care providers who are involved in issues of domestic abuse;

(d) representatives from law enforcement, the judiciary, and the state bar of Montana;

(e) representatives of Montana Indian tribes;

(f) other concerned citizens; and

(g) a member of the legislature who serves on either the house judiciary committee or the senate judiciary committee.

(4) The members shall serve without compensation by the commission but are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, and members who are full-time salaried officers or employees of this state or of any political subdivision of this state are entitled to their regular compensation. The provisions of 2-15-122 do not apply to the commission.

(5) The commission shall review closed domestic homicide cases selected by the attorney general to provide the commission with the best opportunity to fulfill its duties under this section.

(6) Upon written request from the commission, a person who possesses information or records that are necessary and relevant to a domestic violence fatality review shall, as soon as practicable, provide the commission with the information and records. A person who provides information or records upon request of the commission is not criminally or civilly liable for providing information or records in compliance with this section.

(7) The meetings and proceedings of the commission are confidential and are exempt from the provisions of Title 2, chapter 3.

(8) The records of the commission are confidential information as defined in 2-6-1002 and are protected from disclosure. The records are not subject to subpoena, discovery, or introduction into evidence in a civil or criminal action unless the records are reviewed by a district court judge and ordered to be provided to the person seeking access. The commission shall disclose conclusions and recommendations upon request but may not disclose information, records, or data that are otherwise confidential. The commission may not use the information, records, or data for purposes other than those designated by subsections (2)(a) and (2)(c).

(9) The commission may require any person appearing before it to sign a confidentiality agreement created by the commission in order to maintain the confidentiality of the proceedings. In addition, the commission may enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations and private agencies to obtain otherwise confidential information.

(10) A member of the commission who knowingly uses information obtained pursuant to subsection (6) for a purpose not authorized in subsection (2) or who discloses information in violation of subsection (8) is subject to a civil penalty of not more than $500.

(11) The commission shall report its findings and recommendations in writing to the law and justice interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210, the attorney general, the governor, and the chief justice of the Montana supreme court prior to each regular legislative session. The report must be made available to the public through the office of the attorney general. The commission may issue data or other information periodically, in addition to the biennial report.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 28, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

2-15-2018. Terminated. Sec. 6, Ch. 241, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 2021.

2-15-2019. Terminated. Sec. 12, Ch. 235, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 2017.

2-15-2020 reserved.

2-15-2021. Gaming advisory council — allocation — composition — compensation — biennial report. (1) There is a gaming advisory council.

(2) The gaming advisory council is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(3) The gaming advisory council consists of nine members. One member must be from the senate, and one member must be from the house of representatives. The senate committee on committees and the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the legislative members of the council. The seven remaining members must be appointed by the department, with one representing the public at large, two representing local governments, one being a Native American, and three representing the gaming industry.

(4) Each gaming advisory council member is appointed to a 3-year term of office. A member of the council may be removed for good cause by the appointing body provided for in subsection (3).

(5) The gaming advisory council shall appoint a presiding officer from its members.

(6) Members of the gaming advisory council are entitled to travel, meals, and lodging expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. A member who is not a full-time salaried officer or employee of the state or of a political subdivision of the state is also entitled to be paid $25 for each day during which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of council duties. Expenses of the council must be paid from licensing fees received by the department.

(7) The gaming advisory council shall, within its authorized budget, hold meetings and incur expenses as it considers necessary to study all aspects of gambling in the state.

(8) (a) The gaming advisory council shall submit a biennial report to the department, at a time designated by the department, with recommendations for amendments to the gambling statutes, the need for additional or modified department rules, the clarification of existing rules, and other recommendations on the operation of the department or any other gambling-related matter.

(b) The biennial report required under subsection (8)(a) must be affixed to the report on gambling in the state that the department submits that year.

(c) The council may submit interim reports to the department as the council considers necessary.

(d) The council shall meet with the department upon request of the department.

(e) The department shall meet with the council upon request of the council.

(9) The department shall give each council member notice and a copy of each proposed change in administrative rules relating to gambling. The notice and copy must be given at the time a notice of proposed rules changes is filed with the secretary of state. The council shall review the proposal, may comment on it, and may attend any hearing on the proposal. The department shall consider any comment by any council member or by the council as a whole prior to adopting the proposed change.

History: En. Sec. 64, Ch. 642, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 647, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 626, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Local government powers regarding gambling, 7-1-112.
Gambling, Title 23, ch. 5.

2-15-2022 through 2-15-2024 reserved.

2-15-2025. Environmental violations investigation and prosecution — authority. The department of justice, at the request of the department of environmental quality, shall investigate and prosecute violations of the provisions of Title 75 and may also assist county attorneys in investigating and prosecuting violations of the provisions of Title 75 without charge to the county.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 2005.

2-15-2026 and 2-15-2027 reserved.

2-15-2028. Terminated. Sec. 19, Ch. 566, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 2019.

2-15-2029. Montana public safety officer standards and training council — administrative attachment — rulemaking. (1) (a) There is a Montana public safety officer standards and training council. The council is a quasi-judicial board, as provided for in 2-15-124, and is allocated to the department of justice, established in 2-15-2001, for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121, except as provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(b) The council may hire its own personnel and independently administer the conduct of its business, and 2-15-121(2)(a), (2)(d), and (3)(a) do not apply.

(2) The council may adopt rules to implement the provisions of Title 44, chapter 4, part 4. Rules must be adopted pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 456, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Coroner education and continuing education, 7-4-2905.

2-15-2030 through 2-15-2032 reserved.

2-15-2033. Sexual assault prosecution unit. (1) There is a sexual assault prosecution unit in the prosecution services bureau of the department of justice. The unit is under the supervision and control of the attorney general and, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, consists of the agents and employees of the department whom the attorney general considers necessary and appropriate, including but not limited to at least two people who are licensed to practice law in Montana and who are qualified by education, training, experience, and high professional competence to prosecute sexual assault crimes.

(2) The sexual assault prosecution unit shall assist and train county attorneys and local law enforcement in the prosecution of sexual assault crimes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 2015.

2-15-2034. Sexual assault response network program. There is a sexual assault response network program in the department of justice. The program, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, consists of the agents and employees of the department whom the attorney general considers necessary and appropriate, including the sexual assault response network program coordinator provided under 44-4-1704. The program has the duties provided under 44-4-1702.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 165, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

2-15-2035. Sexual assault response team committee. (1) There is a sexual assault response team committee in the department of justice.

(2) The committee is allocated to the department of justice for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(3) The committee has the duties provided for in 44-4-1703. The provisions of 2-15-124 do not apply.

(4) Committee members must be appointed by the Montana attorney general.

(5) Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority and for no longer than 4 years without reappointment. Committee membership includes but is not limited to:

(a) at least one sexual assault nurse examiner;
(b) a hospital administrator;
(c) a registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse;
(d) a telehealth affiliate or provider;
(e) a representative from a victim service provider or organization;
(f) a representative from a law enforcement agency;
(g) a county attorney representative or designee;
(h) a member from the department of justice forensic sciences division;
(i) a member from the department of justice state attorney's office;
(j) a member from the department of justice information technology service desk;
(k) a representative of the office of state public defender; and
(l) a member with a tribal affiliation who has experience working with indigenous survivors.

(6) Each member is entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses incurred while in performance of committee duties by the department of justice as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

(7) A vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 165, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 165, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

2-15-2036 through 2-15-2039 reserved.

2-15-2040. Definitions. For the purposes of 2-15-2040 through 2-15-2045, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the Montana end of watch trust board established in 2-15-2044.

(2) "Catastrophic injury" means an injury directly related to an individual's required employment duties with direct or proximate consequences that renders the individual in need of 24-hour care, permanently incapacitates the individual, and permanently prevents the individual from performing any gainful work.

(3) "Department" means the department of justice.

(4) "Immediate family" means a law enforcement officer's spouse and dependent children under age 18, including children to whom the law enforcement officer is a legal guardian.

(5) "In the line of duty" means an action taken by a law enforcement officer or an activity in which a law enforcement officer participated:

(a) as required or authorized by law, rule, regulation, condition of employment, or professional ethics; and

(b) for which compensation is provided by the officer's employer or would have been provided by the officer's employer if the officer had been on duty at the time the action in question was taken.

(6) "Law enforcement officer" means:

(a) a police officer, deputy sheriff, undersheriff, highway patrol officer, investigator appointed by the department of justice, fish and game warden, park ranger, or other public safety officer certified by the public safety officer standards and training council; or

(b) a sheriff.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 669, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective July 1, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 16, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to persons eligible for loss payments from the Montana end of watch trust pursuant to [section 3(2)] [2-15-2042(2)] on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) Retroactive payments allowed in subsection (1) must be made for 5 years from July 1, 2023."

2-15-2041. Montana end of watch trust. (1) There is a Montana end of watch trust within the permanent fund type for the purpose of supporting eligible law enforcement officers and their surviving immediate family in the event of an officer's death or catastrophic injury in the line of duty.

(2) The department may accept contributions and gifts for the trust in money or other forms. When accepted, the contributions and gifts must be deposited in the trust.

(3) The legislature may transfer money to the trust.

(4) The state treasurer shall each month transfer from the trust to the account established in 2-15-2042 the amount of earnings, excluding unrealized gains and losses, required to meet the obligations of the state that are payable from the account. Earnings not transferred to the account established in 2-15-2042 must be retained in the trust account. Any unexpended interest that transfers back into the trust can be appropriated if monthly obligations exceed the current available interest in the account. If this portion of the trust is appropriated in any fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer that same amount from the general fund to the trust in the following fiscal year.

(5) The board of investments shall invest money deposited in the fund established under this section as provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 669, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective July 1, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 16, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to persons eligible for loss payments from the Montana end of watch trust pursuant to [section 3(2)] [2-15-2042(2)] on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) Retroactive payments allowed in subsection (1) must be made for 5 years from July 1, 2023."

2-15-2042. Montana end of watch account — payment and cessation of payment. (1) There is a Montana end of watch state special revenue account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102 administered by the department. Pursuant to 2-15-2041, all interest and earnings from the trust fund established in 2-15-2041 must be deposited into this fund.

(2) The department shall disburse payments to a qualifying law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's immediate family as provided in this section.

(3) (a) Payments for a catastrophic injury in the line of duty must be made to a catastrophically injured law enforcement officer on a monthly basis for 60 months from the date of the injury.

(b) In the event the catastrophically injured law enforcement officer dies prior to receiving all 60 monthly payments, the department shall pay on a monthly basis the remainder of the 60 monthly payments to the law enforcement officer's immediate family as follows:

(i) to the law enforcement officer's surviving spouse until the surviving spouse remarries or dies; or

(ii) if there is no surviving spouse or if the surviving spouse remarries or dies prior to the disbursement of all 60 monthly payments, then the remainder of the 60 monthly payments must be made to the law enforcement officer's surviving dependent children under 18 years of age, in equal shares, and subject to the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act provided for in Title 72, chapter 26.

(c) In the event there is no surviving spouse that has not remarried or surviving dependent children under 18 years of age, the payments must cease.

(4) (a) Payments for a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty must be made to the law enforcement officer's surviving immediate family on a monthly basis for 60 months from the date of the law enforcement officer's death. The department shall make the payments as follows:

(i) to the law enforcement officer's surviving spouse until the surviving spouse remarries or dies;

(ii) if there is no surviving spouse or if the surviving spouse remarries or dies prior to disbursement of all 60 monthly payments, then the remainder of the 60 monthly payments must be made to the law enforcement officer's surviving dependent children under 18 years of age, in equal shares, and subject to the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act provided for in Title, 72, chapter 26.

(b) In the event there is no surviving spouse that has not remarried or surviving dependent children under 18 years of age, the payments must cease.

(5) (a) For the first 12 months following the date of the catastrophic event or death, the monthly payment due to a qualifying law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's immediate family under this section is $7,000 a month.

(b) For months 13 through 60 following the date of the catastrophic event or death, the monthly payment due to a qualifying law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's immediate family under this section is:

(i) $7,000, subject to an annual increase according to the consumer price index or 3%, whichever is less;

(ii) minus the sum of:

(A) one-half of the workers' compensation monthly benefit based on the employment of the qualifying law enforcement officer paid to the law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's immediate family; and

(B) one-half of the state retirement monthly benefit paid based on the employment of the qualifying law enforcement officer to the law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's immediate family.

(6) The money in the account is subject to legislative appropriation.

(7) All payments under this section are exempt from execution without limit as provided in 25-13-608.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 669, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective July 1, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 16, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to persons eligible for loss payments from the Montana end of watch trust pursuant to [section 3(2)] [2-15-2042(2)] on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) Retroactive payments allowed in subsection (1) must be made for 5 years from July 1, 2023."

2-15-2043. Certification of continued eligibility — notification of change in marital status — notification of date of birth. (1) Each year on the anniversary of the first payment made under 2-15-2042(3), the catastrophically injured law enforcement officer, surviving spouse, other immediate family member, or agent of the catastrophically injured law enforcement officer, surviving spouse, or other immediate family member, shall attest to the board on a form provided by the department that the law enforcement officer is still eligible under the definition of catastrophic injury in 2-15-2040. If the law enforcement officer is no longer eligible under the definition of catastrophic injury in 2-15-2040 or if the annual attestation is not submitted within 120 days after the anniversary date of the first payment under 2-15-2042(3), the payment must cease.

(2) If payments are being made to a surviving spouse and the surviving spouse's marital status changes, the surviving spouse shall notify the board of the change in marital status within 120 days. On receipt of notification, the payment must be dispersed as directed in 2-15-2042(3) and (4).

(3) On a form provided by the department and within 180 days of receipt of the first payment, the catastrophically injured law enforcement officer, surviving spouse, other immediate family member, or agent of the catastrophically injured law enforcement officer, surviving spouse, or other immediate family member, shall provide the board with the identity and dates of birth of all dependent children of the law enforcement officer who were under 18 years of age at the time of the law enforcement officer's catastrophic injury or date of death.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 669, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective July 1, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 16, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to persons eligible for loss payments from the Montana end of watch trust pursuant to [section 3(2)] [2-15-2042(2)] on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) Retroactive payments allowed in subsection (1) must be made for 5 years from July 1, 2023."

2-15-2044. Montana end of watch trust board. (1) There is a volunteer board to oversee the administration of the Montana end of watch trust provided for in 2-15-2041. The board is attached to the department for administrative purposes only, as provided in 2-15-121.

(2) The board consists of five members appointed by the attorney general, including:

(a) a representative of the Montana sheriffs and peace officers association;

(b) a representative of the Montana police protective association;

(c) a representative of the association of Montana troopers;

(d) a representative of the Montana association of chiefs of police; and

(e) a representative from the department.

(3) The board shall:

(a) meet at least once each fiscal year;

(b) act as an advocate for law enforcement officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty and the surviving immediate family members of officers who died in the line of duty; and

(c) settle disputes and concerns regarding trust benefits.

(4) The representatives in subsection (2) must be sworn actors of a participating agency.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 669, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective July 1, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 16, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to persons eligible for loss payments from the Montana end of watch trust pursuant to [section 3(2)] [2-15-2042(2)] on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) Retroactive payments allowed in subsection (1) must be made for 5 years from July 1, 2023."

2-15-2045. End of watch health insurance support. (1) (a) Local governments that employ a law enforcement officer and provide health insurance benefits to an officer, an officer's spouse, or an officer's dependents shall:

(i) enroll the officer and the officer's spouse and dependents in COBRA continuation coverage if the officer is catastrophically injured; and

(ii) enroll the officer's spouse and dependents in COBRA coverage if the officer dies in the line of duty.

(b) Continuation coverage under this section must provide for the same level of continuation coverage benefits as is available to other members of the group. Premiums charged to an officer, spouse, or dependent under this section must be the same as premiums charged to other similarly situated members of the group.

(c) Dependent special enrollment must be allowed under the terms of the insurance contract or plan.

(d) The provisions of this section are applicable to an officer, spouse, or dependent who is already insured under a COBRA continuation provision.

(2) The law enforcement officer's employing agency shall pay the premium for 4 months after the catastrophic injury or death in the line of duty, after which the officer, spouse, or dependent shall pay the premium.

(3) The benefit plans may discontinue or not renew the coverage of an officer, spouse, or dependent only if:

(a) the officer, spouse, or dependent has failed to pay premiums or contributions for which the individual is responsible;

(b) the officer, spouse, or dependent has performed an act or practice that constitutes fraud or has made an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact under the terms of the coverage; or

(c) the state employee group benefit plans cease to offer coverage in accordance with applicable state law.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 669, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective July 1, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 16, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to persons eligible for loss payments from the Montana end of watch trust pursuant to [section 3(2)] [2-15-2042(2)] on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) Retroactive payments allowed in subsection (1) must be made for 5 years from July 1, 2023."

Part 21
Environmental Advisory Boards

2-15-2101. Repealed. Sec. 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

History: En. 82A-601 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-601; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1989.

2-15-2102. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 34, L. 1989.

History: En. 82A-608 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 326, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-608.

2-15-2103. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 16, Sp. L. November 1993.

History: En. 82A-604 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-604.

2-15-2104. Repealed. Sec. 567, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

History: En. 82A-605 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 524, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-605; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 450, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 34, L. 1989.

2-15-2105. Water and wastewater operators' advisory council. (1) There is a water and wastewater operators' advisory council.

(2) The council consists of seven members. Except as provided in subsection (2)(e), the members must be appointed by the governor. The members are:

(a) two members who are employed water supply system or water treatment plant operators holding valid certificates. One of these members must hold a certificate by examination of the highest class issued by the department of environmental quality. There is no restriction on the classification of the certificate held by the other operator.

(b) two members who are employed wastewater treatment plant operators holding valid certificates. One of these members must hold a certificate by examination of the highest class issued by the department of environmental quality. There is no restriction on the classification of the certificate held by the other operator.

(c) one member serving on the faculty of a university or college whose major field is related to water supply systems, wastewater treatment, chemical or civil engineering, chemistry, or bacteriology;

(d) one member who is a representative of a municipality that is required to employ a certified operator and who holds a position of city manager, city engineer, director of public works, works manager, or an equivalent position;

(e) a qualified member of the staff of the department of environmental quality, appointed by the department's director.

(3) Members, except the ex officio member from the department of environmental quality, shall serve for terms of 6 years.

History: En. 82A-612 by Sec. 101, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-612; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Board of Water and Wastewater Operators, Title 37, ch. 42, part 2.

2-15-2106. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 2013.

History: En. 82A-606 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-606.

2-15-2107. Water pollution control advisory council. (1) There is a water pollution control advisory council.

(2) The council consists of 11 members. The members are appointed by the governor and include:

(a) a representative of industry concerned with the disposal of inorganic waste;
(b) a representative of industry concerned with the disposal of organic waste;
(c) a supervisor of a soil and water conservation district;
(d) an irrigated agriculture representative;
(e) a production agriculture representative;
(f) a person serving as public works director, director of public utilities, wastewater or public works superintendent, plant manager, or operator in charge of a publicly owned treatment works;
(g) a conservation organization representative;
(h) a realtor or developer representative;
(i) a licensed professional engineer with experience in sanitary engineering;
(j) a fisheries biologist; and
(k) a member of the public.

(3) The appointed council members serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(4) Subsections (5) through (8) of 2-15-122 apply to the council and members.

History: En. 82A-607 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-607; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Water quality, Title 75, ch. 5.
Council — generally, 75-5-221.

2-15-2108. Petroleum tank release compensation board. (1) There is a petroleum tank release compensation board.

(2) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor as follows:

(a) a representative of the financial or banking industry with experience in small business or property loans;
(b) a representative of the petroleum services industry or a representative of the petroleum release remediation consultant industry;
(c) a representative of independent petroleum marketers and chain retailers;
(d) a representative of the general public;
(e) a representative of service station dealers;
(f) a representative of the insurance industry; and
(g) a person with a background in environmental regulation.

(3) The board shall elect a presiding officer.

(4) The term of membership is 3 years.

(5) Members shall serve without pay, but are entitled to reimbursement for travel, meals, and lodging while engaged in board business, as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 528, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 356, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Petroleum storage tank cleanup, Title 75, ch. 11, part 3.

2-15-2109. Renumbered 2-15-2213. Sec. 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

2-15-2110. Small business compliance assistance advisory council. (1) There is a small business compliance assistance advisory council.

(2) The council consists of seven members, as follows:

(a) two members that are not owners or representatives of owners of small business stationary sources, appointed by the governor to represent the general public;

(b) four members that are owners or representatives of owners of small business stationary sources and who are not legislators, one to be appointed by the majority leader and minority leader of the house of representatives and one to be appointed by the majority leader and minority leader of the senate; and

(c) one member that is a representative of the department of environmental quality, appointed by the director of that department.

(3) Appointed members shall serve for terms of 3 years.

(4) The provisions of 2-15-122(5) through (8) apply to the council and its members.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007.

Cross-References

Duties and compliance assistance program, 75-2-106 through 75-2-109.

Operating permits and fees, 75-2-217 through 75-2-220.

Part 22
Department of Public Health and Human Services

2-15-2201. Department of public health and human services — head. There is a department of public health and human services. The department head is a director of public health and human services appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-111.

History: En. 82A-1901 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1901; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Constitutional requirement for providing economic assistance, Art. XII, sec. 3(3), Mont. Const.

Social Services and Institutions, Title 53.

General powers and duties of Department, Title 53, ch. 2, part 2.

2-15-2202. Renumbered 2-15-1205. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1983.

2-15-2203. Board of public assistance — allocation — quasi-judicial. (1) There is a board of public assistance.

(2) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(3) The board consists of three members appointed by the governor as prescribed in 2-15-124, except that an employee of the department of public health and human services may not be appointed to the board.

(4) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124. For purposes of that section, a majority is considered as one.

History: En. 82A-1906 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1906; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Appeals relating to nongranting of public assistance, 53-2-606.

2-15-2204. Renumbered 2-15-1869. Sec. 5, Ch. 478, L. 2003.

2-15-2205. Division of visual services. There is a division of visual services within the department of public health and human services. The division head is an administrator appointed by the director of the department of public health and human services in accordance with classification requirements. The division is responsible for administration of rehabilitative and other services for blind persons and persons with low vision.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 523, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 239, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Vocational rehabilitation of the blind, Title 53, ch. 7, part 3.

2-15-2206. Office of aging. (1) There is an office of aging, headed by a coordinator of aging. The office is in the department of public health and human services.

(2) The governor shall appoint an advisory council on aging. The council is composed of 11 members, a majority of whom must be 60 years of age or older. Members shall serve staggered 3-year terms and until their successors are appointed. Vacancies must be filled by appointment for the unexpired term. The council is allocated to the department of public health and human services for administrative purposes only.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 664, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 546, L. 1995; Sec. 2-15-231, MCA 1995; redes. 2-15-2206 by Sec. 314(2), Ch. 42, L. 1997.

2-15-2207 through 2-15-2209 reserved.

2-15-2210. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 569, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

2-15-2211. Renumbered 2-15-2402. Sec. 114, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

2-15-2212. Committee on telecommunications access services for persons with disabilities — composition — allocation. (1) There is a committee on telecommunications access services for persons with disabilities.

(2) The committee consists of 13 members appointed by the governor as follows:

(a) four members who are persons with disabilities, two of whom must be deaf or hard-of-hearing;

(b) two members who are not persons with disabilities, one of whom must be engaged in a business other than a business in the telecommunications industry and one of whom must be a senior citizen;

(c) one member from the department of public health and human services;

(d) one member from a public safety answering point, as defined in 10-4-101, who has knowledge of emergency communications issues for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing;

(e) one member from an independent service provider;

(f) one member from an interLATA interexchange carrier;

(g) one member from the public service commission;

(h) one member who is a licensed audiologist; and

(i) one member from the department of administration.

(3) The committee is allocated to the department of public health and human services for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 403, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Licensure of audiologists, Title 37, ch. 15, part 3.

Telecommunications services for the handicapped, Title 53, ch. 19, part 3.

2-15-2213. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 649, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 634, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 546, L. 1995; Sec. 2-15-2109, MCA 1993; redes. 2-15-2213 by Sec. 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

2-15-2214. Montana children's trust fund board. (1) There is a Montana children's trust fund board, consisting of seven members appointed by the governor and serving 3-year terms. Two board members must be chosen from state government agencies involved in education and social work relating to children. The governor shall ensure geographic distribution of appointees.

(2) The board is allocated to the department of public health and human services for administrative purposes only, as provided in 2-15-121. The board may employ staff to carry out its duties as described in Title 52, chapter 7, part 1.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 610, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 2-15-2211, MCA 1985; redes. 2-15-2402 by Sec. 114, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 514, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 546, L. 1995; Sec. 2-15-2402, MCA 1993; redes. 2-15-2214 by Sec. 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Income tax deduction for contribution to state child abuse and neglect prevention program, 15-30-2390.
Montana children's trust fund, Title 52, ch. 7, part 1.

2-15-2215. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 579, L. 1995.

2-15-2216. Trauma care committee. (1) There is a trauma care committee.

(2) The committee consists of members appointed by the governor as follows:

(a) a member of the Montana committee on trauma of the American college of surgeons, who shall serve as presiding officer of the committee;

(b) two members from each regional trauma care advisory committee created pursuant to 50-6-411;

(c) a member of the Montana trauma coordinators;

(d) a representative of the Montana hospital association;

(e) a member of the Montana medical association;

(f) a member of the emergency nurses association;

(g) an individual who is or who is employed by a Montana private ambulance operator;

(h) a member of the Montana emergency medical services association;

(i) a nurse or physician representing the Indian health service; and

(j) a member of the American college of emergency physicians, Montana chapter.

(3) Members must be appointed for 4-year terms, except that seven of the members initially appointed shall serve terms of 2 years. Members serve at the pleasure of the governor. If a vacancy occurs, the governor shall appoint a replacement to fill the unexpired term. A member may be reappointed.

(4) A member of the committee may not receive compensation for performing the member's duties but must be reimbursed for expenses.

(5) The committee is attached to the department of public health and human services for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

(6) The committee has the duties provided in 50-6-404.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 579, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Emergency medical services, Title 50, ch. 6.

2-15-2217. Traumatic brain injury advisory council. (1) There is a traumatic brain injury advisory council attached to the department of public health and human services for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(2) The council is composed of the following members:

(a) the director of the department of public health and human services or a designee;

(b) the superintendent of public instruction or a designee;

(c) a representative of a program that provides senior and long-term care services appointed by the director of the department of public health and human services;

(d) six members of the public, appointed by the governor, who represent:

(i) survivors of traumatic brain injury or family members of survivors of traumatic brain injury;

(ii) injury control or prevention programs; and

(iii) advocates for brain-injured persons.

(3) The public members of the advisory council shall serve 3-year terms. The initial appointments may specify a shorter length of the initial term in order to stagger the terms. Vacancies must be filled for the balance of an unexpired term. A member of the council may be reappointed.

(4) The advisory council shall meet quarterly, and the director of the department of public health and human services or a designee shall serve as presiding officer.

(5) The public members of the council shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, subject to available funding.

(6) The advisory council shall:

(a) advise and make recommendations to the department of public health and human services and other state agencies on ways to improve and develop services regarding traumatic brain injury, including coordination of services between public and private entities;

(b) encourage citizen participation through the establishment of public hearings and other types of community outreach and prevention activities;

(c) encourage and stimulate research, public awareness, education, and prevention activities; and

(d) advise the department of public health and human services on the expenditures of the traumatic brain injury account established in 2-15-2218 and any grants made from that account.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 449, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Protection of youth — requirements related to concussion, 20-7-1301 through 20-7-1304.

2-15-2218. Traumatic brain injury account. (1) There is a traumatic brain injury account in the state special revenue fund for purposes of traumatic brain injury prevention, education, and support.

(2) Money in this account may be used by the department of public health and human services to fund the advisory council and to provide grants for public information and prevention education regarding traumatic brain injury.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 449, L. 2003.**

2-15-2219 and 2-15-2220 reserved.

2-15-2221. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 2003.**

2-15-2222. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 2003.**

2-15-2223. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 185, L. 2003.**

2-15-2224. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 185, L. 2003.**

2-15-2225. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 185, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

2-15-2226. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 185, L. 2003.**

2-15-2227 through 2-15-2229 reserved.

2-15-2230. Dispute resolution requirement for contracts. Each written contract that the department of public health and human services enters into for the provision of human services to a third party must contain a clause providing for a dispute resolution process in the event of disagreement between the contractor and the department about the terms of the contract.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 175, L. 2007.**

Part 23
Department of Corrections

2-15-2301. Department of corrections — head. There is a department of corrections. The department head is a director of corrections appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-111.

History: **En. 82A-801 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-801; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Constitutional mandate for Department, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

2-15-2302. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 392, L. 2017.

History: **En. 82A-804 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-804; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 574, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 420, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 559, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 2015.**

2-15-2303. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 495, L. 1979.

History: **En. 82A-806 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-806.**

2-15-2304. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1981.
History: En. 82A-805 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-805.

2-15-2305. Montana board of pardons and parole — composition and qualifications — allocation — quasi-judicial. (1) There is a board of pardons and parole consisting of five members.

(2) Board members must possess at least one of the following qualifications:

(a) a college degree in criminology, corrections, or a related social science;

(b) at least 5 years of extensive work experience in corrections, the criminal justice system, or criminal law; or

(c) a law degree.

(3) Consideration should be given to balancing members' expertise or knowledge of:

(a) American Indian culture;

(b) serious mental illness and recovery from serious mental illness; and

(c) victim awareness.

(4) Board members shall serve staggered 6-year terms. The terms of board members run with the position, and if a vacancy occurs, the governor shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired portion of the term.

(5) The governor shall designate the presiding officer, as provided in 2-15-124. The governor may designate a different presiding officer at any time. If the governor designates a different presiding officer, the former presiding officer still serves as a board member unless removed for cause pursuant to 2-15-124(6).

(6) The board is allocated to the department of corrections for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121. However, the board may hire its own personnel, and 2-15-121(2)(d) does not apply.

(7) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124, except that board members must be compensated as provided in 46-23-111, the terms of board members must be staggered as provided in subsection (4), and the provisions of 2-15-124(1) do not apply to the board.

(8) A favorable vote of a majority of the members of the board is required to implement a policy, procedure, or administrative rule. A favorable vote of the majority of the members of a hearing panel, as defined in 46-23-103, is required to make decisions regarding parole and executive clemency.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 392, L. 2017.

2-15-2306. Renumbered 2-15-2008. Sec. 4, Ch. 5, L. 2021.

2-15-2307. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 5, L. 2021.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 416, L. 2017.

Part 24
Department of Family Services
(Renumbered and Repealed)

2-15-2401. Repealed. Sec. 567, Ch. 546, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

2-15-2402. Renumbered 2-15-2214. Sec. 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Part 25
Department of Transportation

2-15-2501. Department of transportation — head. There is a department of transportation. The department head is the director of transportation appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-111. The department may have as many divisions as are necessary, but it must have divisions of:

(1) highways;

(2) aeronautics;

(3) administration;

(4) rail and transit; and

(5) motor carrier services.

History: En. 82A-701 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 204, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-701; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Highway revenue nondiversion, Art. VIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Highways and Transportation, Title 60.
General powers and duties of Department, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.
Motor Vehicles, Title 61.
Motor vehicles — size, weight, and loads, Title 61, ch. 10.

2-15-2502. Transportation commission. (1) There is a transportation commission composed of five members. One member must be a resident of and appointed from each of these districts, each composed of the counties named:

(a) District 1. Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell;

(b) District 2. Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Meagher, Broadwater, Jefferson, Park;

(c) District 3. Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, Cascade, Lewis and Clark;

(d) District 4. Carter, Powder River, Fallon, Custer, Rosebud, Garfield, Phillips, Valley, McCone, Prairie, Dawson, Wibaux, Richland, Roosevelt, Daniels, Sheridan;

(e) District 5. Golden Valley, Stillwater, Carbon, Big Horn, Yellowstone, Musselshell, Judith Basin, Fergus, Petroleum, Treasure, Wheatland, Sweet Grass.

(2) Of the members appointed from districts 1, 3, 4, and 5, at least one must have specific knowledge of Indian culture and tribal transportation needs. The member provided for under this subsection must be selected by the governor after consultation with the Montana members of the Rocky Mountain tribal leaders council.

(3) Two members may not be residents of the same district at the time of appointment or during their respective terms of office.

(4) Not more than three members may at the time of appointment or during their respective terms be members of the same political party.

(5) An elective state official or state officer, during the term of office to which elected or appointed, or a state employee may not be a member of the commission.

(6) A resolution, motion, or other decision of the commission may not be adopted or passed without the favorable vote of at least three members.

(7) The commission is allocated to the department of transportation for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(8) The commission is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124; however, the provision of 2-15-124(1) that at least one member of a quasi-judicial board be an attorney does not apply to the commission.

(9) The commission may adopt rules necessary for its government.

(10) The director of transportation or the director's designee shall act as liaison between the commission and the department.

History: En. Sec. 4-102, Ch. 197, L. 1965; Sec. 32-2402, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 82A-706.1 by Sec. 72, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 186, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-706.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 587, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 25, 2023.

Cross-References

Highways and Transportation, Title 60.
General provisions — Transportation Commission, Title 60, ch. 2, part 1.

2-15-2503 and 2-15-2504 reserved.

2-15-2505. Purpose. (1) The legislature intends, through the creation of a department of transportation within the executive branch of state government, to:

(a) provide the means to plan for the present and future transportation needs of the citizens of Montana;

(b) assure that transportation remains a viable element in the private sector of the economy; and

(c) provide energy-efficient and ecologically compatible transportation services with optimum efficiency, effectiveness, and economy.

(2) It is the policy of the state of Montana that adequate, safe, and efficient transportation facilities and services of all modes are essential to the economic growth of the state and the well-being of its people and that the planning and development of those facilities and services be coordinated by a department of transportation that has overall responsibility for balanced transportation policy and planning.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 512, L. 1991.**

2-15-2506. Board of aeronautics — qualification — allocation — quasi-judicial. (1) There is a board of aeronautics.

(2) The board consists of nine members. The members are:

(a) one member of the Montana pilots' association;

(b) one member of the Montana chamber of commerce;

(c) one representative of the Montana airport management association;

(d) one member of the Montana county commissioners association or the Montana league of cities and towns;

(e) one person actively engaged in aviation education in this state;

(f) one person representative of interstate commercial airline operators, who must at the time of appointment be an employee or official of an interstate commercial airline operator and a resident of this state;

(g) one person representing the general public;

(h) one member of the association of Montana aerial applicators; and

(i) one person who must at the time of appointment be an active fixed base operator in this state, or an official of a fixed base operator in this state, of flying services or flying schools.

(3) The board is allocated to the department of transportation for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(4) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124.

(5) The administrator of the aeronautics division shall act as liaison between the board and the department of transportation.

History: **En. 82A-905 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-905; MCA 1979, 2-15-1103; redes. 2-15-1812 by Sec. 12, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 685, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 512, L. 1991; Sec. 2-15-1812, MCA 1989; redes. 2-15-2506 by Sec. 17, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 394, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Board of Aeronautics — functions, 67-1-103.

2-15-2507. Highway traffic safety program. Except as provided in 61-2-103, the highway traffic safety program provided for in 61-2-102 must be administered by the department of transportation.

History: **En. Sec. 8(2), Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 3, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 538, L. 1995; Sec. 2-15-2007, MCA 1997; redes. 2-15-2507 by Sec. 99(2), Ch. 51, L. 1999.**

2-15-2508 through 2-15-2510 reserved.

2-15-2511. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 2019.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 605, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 605, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 2007; Sec. 2-15-246, MCA 2005; redes. 2-15-2511 by Sec. 3, Ch. 248, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 2015.**

Part 26
Department of Public Service Regulation

2-15-2601. Department of public service regulation — head. There is a department of public service regulation. The department head is the public service commission provided for in 2-15-2602.

History: **En. 82A-1701 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1701.**

Cross-References

Representation of consumer interests — Consumer Counsel, Art. XIII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; Title 69, ch. 2, part 2.

Public Utilities and Carriers, Title 69.

2-15-2602. Public service commission — composition. (1) There is a public service commission as provided in Title 69, chapter 1, part 1.

(2) The composition, method of selection, and terms of office of members of the commission are as prescribed in Title 69, chapter 1, part 1.

History: **En. 82A-1702 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1702(part).**

Cross-References

Public Utilities and Carriers, Title 69.
Public Service Commission — administration, Title 69, ch. 1, part 1.
Public Service Commission — role and duties, Title 69, ch. 2, part 1.

Parts 27 through 29 reserved

Part 30
Department of Agriculture

2-15-3001. Department of agriculture — head. There is a department of agriculture. The department head is a director of agriculture appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-111.

History: **En. 82A-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 141, Ch. 218, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-301.**

Cross-References

Constitutional requirement for Department, Art. XII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Agriculture, Title 80.
Department of Agriculture, Title 80, ch. 1, part 1.

2-15-3002. Montana wheat and barley committee. (1) There is a Montana wheat and barley committee.

(2) The committee consists of seven members and three ex officio, nonvoting members.

(3) The governor shall appoint one member from each of the following districts:

(a) District I, consisting of Daniels, Sheridan, and Roosevelt Counties;

(b) District II, consisting of Valley, Phillips, Blaine, and Hill Counties;

(c) District III, consisting of Liberty, Toole, Glacier, and Pondera Counties;

(d) District IV, consisting of Chouteau and Teton Counties;

(e) District V, consisting of Lewis and Clark, Cascade, Judith Basin, Fergus, Petroleum, Meagher, Broadwater, Wheatland, Golden Valley, and Musselshell Counties;

(f) District VI, consisting of Big Horn, Yellowstone, Stillwater, Carbon, Sweet Grass, Park, Gallatin, Madison, Jefferson, Silver Bow, Beaverhead, and all counties west of the continental divide;

(g) District VII, consisting of Garfield, McCone, Rosebud, Richland, Dawson, Wibaux, Prairie, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, and Treasure Counties.

(4) The ex officio members are:

(a) the director of the department of agriculture;

(b) the dean of agriculture of Montana state university-Bozeman;

(c) a representative of the grain trade in Montana elected by a majority of the appointed members.

(5) Each of the appointed members must be a citizen of Montana, derive a substantial portion of the member's income from growing wheat or barley in this state, and be a resident of and have farming operations in the district from which appointed. No more than four of the appointed members may be of the same political party.

(6) A list of nominees for appointment may be submitted to the governor by the Montana farmers union, Montana farm bureau, Montana grange, Montana women involved in farm economics, and the Montana grain growers association. Names of nominees must be submitted not more than 90 days but not less than 30 days before the expiration of a member's term.

(7) The appointed members shall serve staggered terms of 3 years. A member may not serve more than three consecutive 3-year terms.

(8) A member may be removed by the governor, after a full public hearing before the governor, for malfeasance, misfeasance, or neglect of duty. Removal proceedings may not be started except upon duly verified written charges. The member must be given a copy of the written charges at least 10 days in advance of the hearing. At the hearing, the member may be represented by an attorney and may present witnesses on the member's behalf.

(9) A member who ceases to reside in the state or in the district from which the member was appointed or who ceases to grow wheat or barley in the state or district is disqualified from membership, and the office becomes vacant. If the member refuses to recognize the member's disqualification, the refusal is cause for removal.

(10) The committee is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. 82A-304 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 143, Ch. 218, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 71, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-304; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 507, L. 1991; amd. sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Wheat and barley research and marketing, Title 80, ch. 11, part 2.

2-15-3003. Board of hail insurance. (1) There is a board of hail insurance of five members consisting of the state auditor, the director of agriculture, who is secretary of the board, and three other members to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

(2) The governor shall designate one of the appointive members to act as presiding officer of the board.

(3) Whenever the term of any member expires, either by death, resignation, removal for cause, or expiration of the member's term of office, the governor shall appoint a successor and shall also appoint one of the board as presiding officer in case of a vacancy in that office.

(4) Each appointive member of the board must be appointed for 3 years, except when an appointment is made to fill a vacancy on the board, in which case the appointee shall fill out the unexpired term of the member whose place the appointee fills.

(5) All members of the board are subject to removal for cause by the governor.

(6) The board is allocated to the department of agriculture for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121. The department may charge the board for services provided by the department pursuant to 2-15-121. The costs charged by the department must be commensurate with the cost of the services provided.

History: (1) thru (5)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, Ex. L. 1918; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 350, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 350, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 140, Ch. 218, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 468, L. 1977; Sec. 82-1501, R.C.M. 1947; (6)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1973; Sec. 82A-304.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1501(part), 82A-304.1; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 691, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Hail insurance, Title 80, ch. 2, part 2.

2-15-3004. Montana alfalfa seed committee — composition — allocation. (1) There is a Montana alfalfa seed committee composed of eight members as follows:

(a) five members appointed by the governor who are citizens of Montana and who are actively engaged in the growing of alfalfa seed within the state, deriving a substantial portion of their income from handling, packing, shipping, buying, or selling alfalfa seed, or acting as a broker or factor of alfalfa seed. These five members must be compensated as provided in 80-11-305.

(b) two members appointed by the governor who are citizens of Montana and who are actively engaged in the growing of alfalfa seed within the state and the rearing of alfalfa leaf-cutting bees. Each member must be compensated from the state special revenue account established in 80-6-1109 at $25 for each day in which the member is engaged in the official business of the committee, plus expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

(c) the director of the department of agriculture or the director's authorized representative.

(2) A list of nominees for appointment may be submitted to the governor by the Montana alfalfa seed association, the Montana seed trade association, the Montana seed growers association, and any other organization representing alfalfa seed growers or dealers. Names of nominees must be submitted at least 91 days before the expiration of a committee member's term. The governor shall appoint members from among the persons nominated.

(3) The appointed members serve staggered terms of 3 years. The initial appointments are as follows: two members for 1-year terms, two members for 2-year terms, and three members for 3-year terms.

(4) The committee is allocated to the department of agriculture for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 405, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 486, L. 2009.

2-15-3005. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 4, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 331, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1989; amd. sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995.

2-15-3006. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 2009.

2-15-3007. Montana pulse crop committee. (1) There is a Montana pulse crop committee.

(2) The committee consists of five voting members and three ex officio nonvoting members who are actively involved in the production, research, or marketing of pulse crops.

(3) The governor shall appoint:

(a) two members from an eastern district consisting of Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Valley, and Wibaux Counties;

(b) one member from a western district consisting of the remaining counties of the state; and

(c) two at-large members, who may be from either district.

(4) The ex officio members are:

(a) the director of the department of agriculture;

(b) the dean of agriculture of Montana state university-Bozeman; and

(c) a representative of the pulse industry who is appointed by the governor and operates a collection facility that purchases pulses in Montana.

(5) (a) Agricultural groups with an interest in the production and marketing of pulses may submit to the governor a list of nominees for appointment not more than 90 days or less than 30 days before the expiration of a member's term.

(b) Appointments must be made from the individuals nominated. If too few individuals are nominated to fill the available positions, the governor may appoint any pulse producer from the district where the vacancy exists.

(6) The appointed members shall serve staggered terms of 3 years that expire on June 30. A member may not serve more than three consecutive 3-year terms.

(7) Each appointed member must be a Montana resident, derive a substantial portion of the member's income from growing pulse crops in the state, and have a farming operation in the district from which the member was appointed.

(8) A member may be removed by the governor, after a full public hearing before the governor, for malfeasance, misfeasance, or neglect of duty. Removal proceedings may not be started except upon written charges duly verified by the governor. The member must be given a copy of the written charges at least 10 days in advance of the hearing. At the hearing, the member may be represented by an attorney and may present witnesses on the member's behalf.

(9) A member who no longer resides in the state or in the district from which the member was appointed or who no longer grows pulse crops in the state or district is disqualified from membership, and the office becomes vacant. A member's refusal to recognize the member's disqualification is cause for removal.

(10) The committee is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 2017.

2-15-3008 through 2-15-3010 reserved.

2-15-3011. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 168, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 580, L. 1983.

2-15-3012 through 2-15-3014 reserved.

2-15-3015. Montana agriculture development council. (1) There is a Montana agriculture development council. The council is allocated to the department of agriculture for administrative purposes only, as provided in 2-15-121.

(2) The council is composed of seven members appointed by the governor, including the director of the department of agriculture, the director of the department of commerce, and five members who are or have been actively engaged in agriculture. Members shall serve staggered 3-year terms commencing on July 1 of each year of appointment.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 665, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1989; Sec. 2-15-1817, MCA 1987; redes. 2-15-3015 by Code Commissioner, 1989.

Cross-References

Montana Growth Through Agriculture Act, Title 90, ch. 9.

Powers and duties of Council, 90-9-202, 90-9-203.

Part 31
Department of Livestock

2-15-3101. Department of livestock — head. There is a department of livestock. The department head is the board of livestock provided for in 2-15-3102.

History: En. 82A-1301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1301.

Cross-References

Special levies on livestock for research and disease and predator control authorized, Art. XII, sec. 1(2), Mont. Const.

Livestock, Title 81.

Department of Livestock, Title 81, ch. 1, 2.

2-15-3102. Board of livestock — composition. (1) There is a board of livestock.

(2) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate. Each member must be a resident of the state and an active livestock producer. A member must be appointed upon the recommendation of the related industry and must have the following qualifications:

(a) four are cattle producers;
(b) one is a dairy producer representing the dairy and poultry industry;
(c) one is a swine producer; and
(d) one is a sheep producer.

(3) An appointee is vested with all the powers and duties of office before being confirmed by the senate, as are directors in 2-15-111(2).

(4) The governor shall designate the presiding officer of the board.

(5) A member shall serve for a term of 6 years.

(6) Members of the board must be reimbursed and compensated as are members of quasi-judicial boards in 2-15-124(7).

History: En. 82A-1303 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 310, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1303; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 52, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Livestock, Title 81.

Department of Livestock — generally, Title 81, ch. 2, part 1.

Bounty claims for wild animals, 87-1-206.

2-15-3103. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1995.

History: En. 82A-1306 by Sec. 3, Ch. 484, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1306(part).

2-15-3104. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 99, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 571, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-15-3105. Board of milk control — membership — allocation — quasi-judicial. (1) There is a board of milk control.

(2) The board consists of five members. A member may not be connected in any way with the production, processing, distribution, or wholesale or retail sale of milk or dairy products. A member may not have held an elective or appointive public office during the 2 years immediately preceding appointment, and a member may not hold a public office, either elective or appointive, during a term on the board. Not more than three members may be of the same political party.

(3) The board is allocated to the department of livestock for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(4) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124.

History: En. 82A-406 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 143, Ch. 431, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-406; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 52, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 1995; Sec. 2-15-1802, MCA 1993; redes. 2-15-3105, Sec. 9, Ch. 333, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Milk price control, Title 81, ch. 23.

2-15-3106. Renumbered 2-15-1809. Sec. 2, Ch. 402, L. 2013.

2-15-3107 through 2-15-3109 reserved.

2-15-3110. Livestock loss board — purpose, membership, and qualifications. (1) There is a livestock loss board. The purpose of the board is to administer the programs called for in the Montana gray wolf conservation and management plan, the Montana mountain lion management plan, and the Montana grizzly bear management plan and established in 2-15-3111 through 2-15-3113, with funds provided through the accounts established in 81-1-110, in order to minimize losses caused by wolves, mountain lions, and grizzly bears to livestock producers and to reimburse livestock producers for livestock losses from wolf, mountain lion, and grizzly bear predation.

(2) The board consists of five members, appointed by the governor, as follows:

(a) three members who are actively involved in the livestock industry and who have knowledge and experience with regard to wildlife impacts or management; and

(b) two members of the general public who are or have been actively involved in wildlife conservation or wildlife management and who have knowledge and experience with regard to livestock production or management.

(3) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for the purposes of 2-15-124. Notwithstanding the provisions of 2-15-124(1), the governor is not required to appoint an attorney to serve as a member of the board.

(4) The board is allocated to the department of livestock for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

(5) The board shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of 2-15-3110 through 2-15-3114 and 81-1-110 through 81-1-113.

(6) The board shall prioritize grants for prevention of wolf and grizzly bear predation over those for mountain lion predation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 339, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 235, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 369, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2017.

2-15-3111. Livestock loss reduction program. The livestock loss board shall establish and administer a program to cost-share with individuals or incorporated entities in implementing measures to prevent wolf, mountain lion, and grizzly bear predation on livestock, including:

(1) eligibility requirements for program participation;

(2) application procedures for program participation and procedures for awarding grants for wolf, mountain lion, and grizzly bear predation prevention measures, subject to grant priorities and the availability of funds;

(3) criteria for the selection of projects and program participants, which may include establishment of grant priorities based on factors such as chronic depredation, multiple depredation incidents, single depredation incidents, and potential high-risk geographical or habitat location;

(4) grant guidelines for prevention measures on public and private lands, including:

(a) grant terms that clearly set out the obligations of the livestock producer and that provide for a term of up to 12 months subject to renewal based on availability of funds, satisfaction of program requirements, and prioritization of the project;

(b) cost-share for prevention measures, which may be a combination of grant and livestock producer responsibility, payable in cash or in appropriate services, such as labor to install or implement preventive measures, unless the board adjusts the cost-share because of extenuating circumstances related to chronic or multiple depredation; and

(c) proactive preventive measures and other preventive measures as information on new or different successful prevention measures becomes available; and

(5) reporting requirements for program participants to assist in determining the effectiveness of loss reduction relative to each grant.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 261, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 229, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 172, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 76, L. 2017.

2-15-3112. Livestock loss mitigation program — definitions. The livestock loss board shall establish and administer a program to reimburse livestock producers for livestock losses caused by wolves, mountain lions, and grizzly bears, subject to the following provisions:

(1) The board shall establish eligibility requirements for reimbursement, which must provide that all Montana livestock producers are eligible for coverage for losses by wolves, mountain lions, and grizzly bears to cattle, swine, horses, mules, sheep, goats, llamas, and livestock guard dogs on state, federal, tribal, and private land.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the board may reimburse confirmed and probable livestock losses at an amount not to exceed the fair market value of the livestock.

(b) The board may reimburse confirmed and probable livestock losses by paying a multiplier of the fair market value of the livestock based on a board-determined region.

(c) Before the board may issue a reimbursement for losses to a livestock producer eligible for coverage for losses, the department of revenue shall certify that the livestock producer has paid per capita fees as required by 15-24-921. Except for a tribal member or tribal entity participating in an authorized agreement pursuant to 2-15-3113, a livestock producer may not receive a reimbursement for losses until the producer has paid any delinquent per capita fees.

(3) Other losses may be reimbursed at rates determined by the board.

(4) A claim process must be established to be used when a livestock producer suffers a livestock loss for which wolves, mountain lions, or grizzly bears may be responsible. The claim process must set out a clear and concise method for documenting and processing claims for reimbursement for livestock losses.

(5) Names, addresses, and other personally identifiable information of claimants must remain confidential and may not be released.

(6) (a) A process must be established to allow livestock producers to appeal reimbursement decisions. A producer may appeal a staff adjuster's decision by notifying the staff adjuster and the board in writing, stating the reasons for the appeal and providing documentation supporting the appeal. If the documentation is incomplete, the board or a producer may consult with the U.S. department of agriculture wildlife services to complete the documentation.

(b) The board may not accept any appeal on the question of whether the loss was or was not a confirmed or probable loss because that final determination lies solely with the U.S. department of agriculture wildlife services and may not be changed by the board.

(c) The board shall hold a hearing on an appeal within 90 days of receipt of the written appeal, allowing the staff adjuster and the producer to present their positions. A decision must be rendered by the board within 30 days after the hearing. The producer must be notified in writing of the board's decision.

(7) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Confirmed" means reasonable physical evidence that livestock was actually attacked or killed by a wolf, mountain lion, or grizzly bear, including but not limited to the presence of bite marks indicative of the spacing of tooth punctures of wolves, mountain lions, or grizzly bears and associated subcutaneous hemorrhaging and tissue damage indicating that the attack occurred while the animal was alive, feeding patterns on the carcass, fresh tracks, scat, hair rubbed off on fences or brush, eyewitness accounts, or other physical evidence that allows a reasonable inference of wolf, mountain lion, or grizzly bear predation on an animal that has been largely consumed.

(b) "Fair market value" means:

(i) for commercial sheep more than 1 year old, the average price of sheep of similar age and sex paid at the most recent Billings livestock sale ring or other ring as determined by the board;

(ii) for commercial lambs, the average market weaning value;

(iii) for registered sheep, twice the average value of commercial sheep of the same age and sex;

(iv) for commercial cattle more than 1 year old, the average price of cattle of similar age and sex paid at the most recent Billings livestock sale ring or other ring as determined by the board;

(v) for commercial calves, the average market weaning value;

(vi) for registered cattle, twice the average value of commercial cattle of the same age and sex;

(vii) for other registered livestock, twice the average value of commercial-grade animals of the same breed, age, and sex; or

(viii) for other livestock, the average price paid at the most recent public auction for the type of animal lost or the replacement price as determined by the board.

(c) "Probable" means the presence of some evidence to suggest possible predation but a lack of sufficient evidence to clearly confirm predation by a particular species. A kill may be classified as probable depending on factors including but not limited to recent confirmed predation by the suspected depredating species in the same or a nearby area, recent observation of the livestock by the owner or the owner's employees, and telemetry monitoring data, sightings, howling, or fresh tracks suggesting that the suspected depredating species may have been in the area when the depredation occurred.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 261, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 229, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 172, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 76, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 306, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 427, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 427, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-15-3113. Additional powers and duties of livestock loss board. (1) The livestock loss board shall:

(a) process claims;

(b) seek information necessary to ensure that claim documentation is complete;

(c) provide payments authorized by the board for confirmed and probable livestock losses, along with a written explanation of payment;

(d) submit monthly and annual reports to the board of livestock summarizing claims and expenditures and the results of action taken on claims and maintain files of all claims received, including supporting documentation;

(e) provide information to the board of livestock regarding appealed claims and implement any decision by the board;

(f) prepare the annual budget for the board; and

(g) provide proper documentation of staff time and expenditures.

(2) The livestock loss board may enter into an agreement with any Montana tribe, if the tribe has adopted a wolf, mountain lion, or grizzly bear management plan for reservation lands that is consistent with the state wolf, mountain lion, or grizzly bear management plan, to provide that tribal lands within reservation boundaries are eligible for livestock loss reduction program grants pursuant to 2-15-3111.

(3) The livestock loss board shall:

(a) coordinate and share information with state, federal, and tribal officials, livestock producers, nongovernmental organizations, and the general public in an effort to reduce livestock losses caused by wolves, mountain lions, and grizzly bears;

(b) establish an annual budget for the prevention, mitigation, and reimbursement of livestock losses caused by wolves, mountain lions, and grizzly bears;

(c) perform or contract for the performance of periodic program audits and reviews of program expenditures, including payments to individuals, incorporated entities, and producers who receive loss reduction grants and reimbursement payments;

(d) adjudicate appeals of claims;

(e) investigate alternative or enhanced funding sources, including possible agreements with public entities and private wildlife or livestock organizations that have active livestock loss reimbursement programs in place;

(f) meet as necessary to conduct business; and

(g) report annually to the governor, the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210, members of the Montana congressional delegation, the board of livestock, the fish and wildlife commission, and the public regarding results of the programs established in 2-15-3111 through 2-15-3113.

(4) The livestock loss board may sell or auction any carcasses or parts of carcasses from wolves or mountain lions received pursuant to 87-1-217. The proceeds, minus the costs of the sale including the preparation of the carcass or part of the carcass for sale, must be deposited into the livestock loss reduction and mitigation special revenue account established in 81-1-110 and used for the purposes of 2-15-3111 through 2-15-3114.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 261, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 229, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 123, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 172, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 235, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 76, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 36, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

2-15-3114. *(Temporary)* **Funding of programs — contingency.** The awarding of grants and reimbursements and the performance of duties pursuant to 2-15-3111 through 2-15-3113 are contingent upon the amount of money available in the accounts provided for in 81-1-110 through 81-1-113. *(Terminates June 30, 2029—sec. 3, Ch. 20, L. 2023.)*

2-15-3114. *(Effective July 1, 2029)* **Funding of programs — contingency.** The awarding of grants and reimbursements and the performance of duties pursuant to 2-15-3111 through 2-15-3113 are contingent upon the amount of money available in the accounts provided for in 81-1-110 through 81-1-112.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 261, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 339, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 2017.

Compiler's Comments

Extension of Termination Date: Section 3, Ch. 20, L. 2023, amended sec. 8, Ch. 284, L. 2017, by extending the termination date imposed by Ch. 284 to June 30, 2029. Effective February 28, 2023.

Part 32
Department of State Lands (Repealed and Terminated)

2-15-3201. Repealed. Sec. 500, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

History: En. 82A-1101 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1101.

2-15-3202. Repealed. Sec. 500, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

History: En. 82A-1104 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1104.

2-15-3203. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

2-15-3204. Repealed. Sec. 85, Ch. 10, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 691, L. 1989.

2-15-3205. Repealed. Sec. 85, Ch. 10, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 691, L. 1989.

Part 33
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

2-15-3301. Department of natural resources and conservation — head. There is a department of natural resources and conservation. The department head is the director of natural resources and conservation appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-111.

History: En. 82A-1501 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 114, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1501.

Cross-References

Environment and natural resources, Art. IX, Mont. Const.
Water resources, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; Title 85, ch. 1.
Cooperative agreements with district weed boards, 7-22-2151.
Environmental contingency grant program, Title 75, ch. 1, part 11.
Major facility siting, Title 75, ch. 20.
Flood plain and floodway management, Title 76, ch. 5.
Timber resources, Title 76, ch. 13.
Conservation districts, Title 76, ch. 15.
Grazing districts, Title 76, ch. 16.
State Lands, Title 77.
State building energy conservation program, Title 90, ch. 4, part 6.

2-15-3302. Repealed. Sec. 500, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

History: En. 82A-1509 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 384, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 117, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1509.

2-15-3303. Board of oil and gas conservation — composition — allocation — quasi-judicial. (1) There is a board of oil and gas conservation.

(2) The board consists of seven members, three of whom shall be from the oil and gas industry and have had at least 3 years' experience in the production of oil and gas and two of whom shall be landowners residing in oil or gas producing counties of the state but not actively associated with the oil and gas industry, but one of the two landowners shall be one who owns the mineral rights with the surface and the other shall be one who does not own the mineral rights.

(3) The board is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121. However, the board may hire its own personnel, and 2-15-121(2)(d) does not apply. The board may also prescribe the duties and annual salary of four professional staff positions.

(4) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124.

History: En. 82A-1508 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 116, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1508; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 679, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Oil and gas conservation, Title 82, ch. 11.

2-15-3304. State coordinator for rangeland resources. The department shall maintain and staff the office of state coordinator for the Montana Rangeland Resources Act.

History: En. 76-304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-304(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Montana Rangeland Resources Act, Title 76, ch. 14.

Duty of Coordinator, 76-14-105.

2-15-3305. Rangeland resources committee. (1) The governor may select a committee of six members in accordance with subsection (2) that is composed of:

(a) a presiding officer who is a rancher;

(b) a vice presiding officer who is a rancher;

(c) a rancher from the eastern area of the state;

(d) a rancher from the northern area of the state;

(e) a rancher from the area of the state west of the continental divide;

(f) a rancher from the southern area of the state.

(2) The governor shall select the members described in subsection (1) from a list submitted by the executive committee of the association of conservation districts and the board of directors of the Montana association of state grazing districts.

(3) The committee members shall serve without compensation.

(4) All persons appointed to the committee shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(5) The committee is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. 76-305, 76-306 by Secs. 5, 6, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-305, 76-306; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Rangeland resources, Title 76, ch. 14.

Duties of Committee, 76-14-106, 76-14-116.

2-15-3306. Repealed. Sec. 500, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 358, L. 1979.

2-15-3307. Board of water well contractors. (1) There is a board of water well contractors.

(2) The board is composed of seven voting members, consisting of:

(a) one technical adviser who is a hydrogeologist appointed by the Montana bureau of mines and geology;

(b) four licensed Montana water well contractors appointed by the governor with the concurrence of the senate, with preference given to contractors from diverse geographical areas of the state;

(c) one member appointed by the director of environmental quality; and

(d) one member appointed by the director of natural resources and conservation.

(3) The members of the board must have been bona fide residents of this state for a period of a least 3 years prior to such appointment.

(4) The members of the board shall serve for terms of 3 years. In case of a vacancy in the office of a member of the board, an appointment must be made to fill the vacancy in the manner prescribed by the constitution and laws of this state.

(5) The members of the board shall, upon entering on the duties of their office, take and subscribe to the oath specified in the constitution of Montana, and the oath must be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

(6) The board is allocated to the department of natural resources and conservation for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(7) A member of the board may not be a close relative to another member of the board.

(8) A member of the board may not be employed by the same firm, corporation, partnership, or other business entity as another member of the board.

(9) For the purposes of this section, "close relative" means a parent, child, sibling, or spouse or a relative of the same degree through marriage.

History: (1) thru (5)En. 82A-1602.26 by Sec. 3, Ch. 232, L. 1974; Sec. 361, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602.26, R.C.M. 1947; (6)En. 82A-1602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 250, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 82A-1602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1602(part), 82A-1602.26(1) thru (3); MCA 1979, 2-15-1632; redes. 2-15-1862 by Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1981; Sec. 2-15-1862, MCA 1983; redes. 2-15-3307 by Sec. 12, Ch. 728, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212.
Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act to licensing, 2-4-631.
Disasters and emergencies — emergency reciprocity for persons licensed out of state, 10-3-204.
General duties of boards, 37-1-131.
Licensure of former criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Water well contractors, Title 37, ch. 43.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.

2-15-3308. Drought and water supply advisory committee — stream gauge oversight. (1) There is a drought and water supply advisory committee in the department of natural resources and conservation.

(2) The drought and water supply advisory committee is chaired by a representative of the governor and consists of representatives of the departments of natural resources and conservation; agriculture; commerce; fish, wildlife, and parks; military affairs; environmental quality; and livestock. The governor's representative must be appointed by the governor, and the representative of each department must be appointed by the head of that department. Additional, nonvoting members who represent federal and local government agencies and public and private interests affected by drought, flooding, or water supply may also be appointed by the governor.

(3) The drought and water supply advisory committee shall:

(a) with the approval of the governor, develop and implement a state plan that considers drought and flooding, mitigation, and response;

(b) review and report drought and water supply monitoring information to the public;

(c) coordinate timely drought and flooding impact assessments and maintain regular communication with the United States drought monitor, the national drought mitigation center, the division of disaster and emergency services, the national weather service, and other appropriate local, state, tribal, and federal partners;

(d) identify areas of the state with a high probability of drought or flooding and target reporting and assistance efforts to those areas in coordination with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies;

(e) upon request, assist in organizing local advisory committees for the areas identified under subsection (3)(d);

(f) request state agency staff to provide technical assistance to local advisory committees;

(g) promote ideas and activities for groups and individuals to consider that may reduce vulnerability to drought or flooding and improve seasonal forecasting of water supply; and

(h) coordinate oversight of the statewide stream gauge network identified by the department of natural resources and conservation, including:

(i) an early notification process for the discontinuation of any network gauge;

(ii) an annual review of the funding status and potential alterations to the network; and

(iii) an annual report to the water policy interim committee, in accordance with 5-11-210, on the drought and water supply advisory committee's network oversight activities.

(4) The drought and water supply advisory committee shall meet, at a minimum, on or around October 15 and March 15 of each year to assess moisture conditions and forecasts and, as appropriate, begin preparations for drought or flood mitigation.

(5) By April 15 of each year, the drought and water supply advisory committee shall submit a report to the governor's office that, to the extent possible, describes the potential for drought

or flooding in the coming year, describes the current water supply conditions of the state, taking into consideration winter precipitation, and provides an assessment of the cumulative water supply status.

(6) By July 1 of each year, the drought and water supply advisory committee shall submit a report to the governor's office evaluating the potential for drought for the remainder of the calendar year. If the report identifies a potential for drought that is likely to cause adverse impacts to human health and safety, environmental quality, or both, the committee shall notify the division of disaster and emergency services and county commissioners, tribal governments, conservation districts, and local watershed groups in the geographic location potentially impacted by drought and the types of impacts likely to occur.

(7) Nothing in this section is intended to remove or interfere with the duties and responsibilities of the governor or the division of disaster and emergency services for disaster coordination and emergency response, as provided in Title 10, chapter 3, part 1. The duties and responsibilities of the drought and water supply advisory committee supplement and are consistent with those of the division of disaster and emergency services for drought or flood planning, preparation, coordination, and mitigation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 298, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

2-15-3309. Invasive species council. (1) There is an invasive species council within the department of natural resources and conservation. The council is attached to the department for administrative purposes only, as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(2) The council consists of the following 22 members:

(a) the directors of the following departments or their designees:

(i) fish, wildlife, and parks;

(ii) natural resources and conservation;

(iii) transportation;

(iv) agriculture; and

(v) commerce;

(b) a representative of each of the following appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the governor:

(i) county weed districts;

(ii) conservation districts;

(iii) the Montana state university extension service;

(iv) agriculture;

(v) conservation organizations;

(vi) wildlife organizations;

(vii) fishing organizations;

(viii) the hydropower utility industry;

(ix) private landowners; and

(x) each of the tribal governments in Montana.

(3) The council shall seek active input and participation in its deliberations from the U.S. army corps of engineers, the U.S. bureau of reclamation, the U.S. bureau of land management, the U.S. department of agriculture animal and plant health inspection service, the U.S. fish and wildlife service, the U.S. forest service, and the national park service.

(4) The council members shall serve without pay. Unless otherwise provided by law, each council member is entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

(5) Council members shall serve staggered 4-year terms.

(6) A majority of the membership of the council constitutes a quorum to do business. A favorable vote of at least a majority of all of the members is required to adopt any resolution, to approve a motion, or to make any other decision.

(7) The council shall meet no less than twice annually.

(8) The governor shall appoint the presiding officer, who shall serve in that capacity for a 2-year term.

(9) The presiding officer and the director of the department of natural resources and conservation shall serve as the council's liaisons to the governor's office.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 348, L. 2017.

2-15-3310. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 2019.

2-15-3311. *(Temporary)* **Western Montana conservation commission.** (1) There is a western Montana conservation commission consisting of 16 voting members. The commission is attached to the department of natural resources and conservation for administrative purposes only, as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(2) The governor shall appoint nine of the voting members who represent each of the following groups within western Montana:

(a) the hydropower utility industry;

(b) an electric cooperative;

(c) a private landowner who is a member of an irrigation district or a water users' association;

(d) a private citizen at large;

(e) private industry; and

(f) a director, officer, staff person, or member of a natural resource, conservation, or recreation organization, representing each of the following geographic areas:

(i) the Clark Fork river basin upstream from Missoula, including the Blackfoot river basin;

(ii) the Clark Fork river basin downstream from Missoula, including the Bitterroot river basin;

(iii) the Kootenai river basin; and

(iv) the Flathead river basin.

(3) Seven of the voting members shall represent the following groups within western Montana, including:

(a) two county commissioners, nominated and appointed by the Montana association of counties, including:

(i) one from a county with a population greater than 100,000; and

(ii) one from a county with a population less than 100,000;

(b) two conservation district representatives, nominated and appointed by the Montana association of conservation districts;

(c) two representatives of wastewater or storm water utilities, including:

(i) one from a municipality with a population greater than 20,000, nominated and appointed by the Montana league of cities and towns; and

(ii) one from a local water and sewer district, nominated and appointed by the Montana rural water association; and

(d) a representative of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes' natural resource department, nominated and appointed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes tribal council;

(4) (a) The following officials or entities may appoint nonvoting representatives as follows:

(i) The speaker of the house and the president of the senate may each appoint two nonvoting representatives, one each from the majority party and from the minority party.

(ii) The directors of the department of environmental quality, department of natural resources and conservation, department of fish, wildlife, and parks, department of transportation, and department of commerce may each designate a nonvoting representative to the commission.

(iii) The president of the university of Montana, the director of the Montana bureau of mines and geology, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes tribal council may each designate a nonvoting representative to the commission.

(iv) The regional administrators of the environmental protection agency, U.S. department of agriculture, U.S. forest service, U.S. department of the interior, U.S. bureau of reclamation, U.S. geological survey, U.S. department of defense, and U.S. army corps of engineers and the administrator of the Bonneville power administration may each designate a nonvoting representative to the commission.

(b) The nonvoting representatives appointed subject to subsections (4)(a)(ii) through (4)(a)(iv) must possess sufficient knowledge and authority with their position to inform natural resource and community development decisions made within the commission's purpose and duties.

(5) The commissioners shall serve without pay. The voting members of the commission are entitled to reimbursement of travel, meals, and lodging expenses while engaged in commission business, as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

(6) Nonvoting commission representatives shall serve at the pleasure of the agency or organization that appoints them and may be removed with or without cause. Voting commission members shall serve staggered 4-year terms beginning July 1, 2023. To implement staggered terms for voting members, the governor may specify a shorter length of term for initial voting members except that:

(a) the Flathead basin commission shall nominate two commissioners to the governor to serve until July 1, 2025, subject to subsections (2)(a) through (2)(f); and

(b) the upper Columbia conservation commission shall nominate two commissioners to the governor to serve until July 1, 2025, subject to subsections (2)(a) through (2)(f).

(7) A majority of the voting members of the commission constitutes a quorum of the commission.

(8) A vacancy on the commission must be filled in the same manner as a regular appointment. The appointed member shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(9) The commission shall select a presiding officer from among its members. The presiding officer may make motions and vote.

(10) A favorable vote of at least a majority of a quorum of voting members of the commission is required to adopt any commission motion, resolution, or other decision. *(Terminates June 30, 2029—sec. 12, Ch. 428, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 11, Ch. 428, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."
Termination: Section 12, Ch. 428, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] terminates June 30, 2029."

2-15-3312. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 1999.

2-15-3313. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 456, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 2001.

2-15-3314. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 1999.

2-15-3315. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 456, L. 1999.

2-15-3316. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 456, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 7, L. 2001.

2-15-3317. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 456, L. 1999.

2-15-3318. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 456, L. 1999.

2-15-3319. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 456, L. 1999.

2-15-3320. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 456, L. 1999.

2-15-3321. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 456, L. 1999.

2-15-3322. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 456, L. 1999.

2-15-3323 through 2-15-3329 reserved.

2-15-3330. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 424, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 451, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 537, L. 2003; Sec. 2-15-213, MCA 2001; redes. 2-15-3330 by Sec. 2, Ch. 537, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 387, L. 2005.

2-15-3331. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 424, L. 1983; Sec. 2-15-214, MCA 2001; redes. 2-15-3331 by Sec. 2, Ch. 537, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-15-3332. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 424, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1999; Sec. 2-15-215, MCA 2001; redes. 2-15-3332 by Sec. 2, Ch. 537, L. 2003.

Part 34
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

2-15-3401. Department of fish, wildlife, and parks — head. There is a department of fish, wildlife, and parks. The department head is the director of fish, wildlife, and parks appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-111. The director is the secretary of the:

(1) fish and wildlife commission established in 2-15-3402; and

(2) state parks and recreation board established in 2-15-3406.

History: En. 82A-2001 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-2001; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 235, L. 2013.

Cross-References

State parks, Title 23, ch. 1.
Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.
Fish and Wildlife, Title 87.
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Title 87, ch. 1, part 2.

2-15-3402. Fish and wildlife commission. (1) There is a fish and wildlife commission.

(2) (a) The commission consists of seven members. At least one member must be experienced in the breeding and management of domestic livestock. The governor shall appoint one member for each of the administrative regions of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, which are headquartered in the following locations:

(i) Kalispell;
(ii) Missoula;
(iii) Bozeman;
(iv) Great Falls;
(v) Billings;
(vi) Glasgow; and
(vii) Miles City.

(b) (i) To be eligible to serve on the commission, the member must reside in the administrative region the member will represent or within 10 air miles of the region's boundary as it exists on the date the member is appointed.

(ii) If the commission adjusts a region's boundary after a member is appointed so that the member no longer meets the requirements of subsection (2)(b)(i), the member may continue to represent the region until the member's current term expires.

(3) Appointments must be made without regard to political affiliation and must be made solely for the wise management of fish, wildlife, and related recreational resources of this state. A person may not be appointed to the commission unless the person is informed or interested and experienced in the subject of fish, wildlife, and recreation and the requirements for the conservation and protection of fish, wildlife, and recreational resources.

(4) A vacancy occurring on the commission must be filled by the governor in the same manner and from the administrative region in which the vacancy occurs.

(5) The fish and wildlife commission is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124. Notwithstanding the provisions of 2-15-124(1), the governor is not required to appoint an attorney to serve as a member of the commission.

History: En. 82A-2004 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 511, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 417, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-2004; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 235, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.
Fish and Wildlife, Title 87.
Commission — general powers and duties, Title 87, ch. 1, part 3.

2-15-3403. Renumbered 2-15-1883. Sec. 11, Ch. 528, L. 1987.

2-15-3404. Fish, wildlife, and parks crimestoppers board. (1) There is a fish, wildlife, and parks crimestoppers board.

(2) (a) The board consists of five members, four of whom are appointed by the director of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks as follows:

(i) a person within the department responsible for the enforcement of fish and wildlife laws;

(ii) a member of a hunter's, angler's, or conservation group;

(iii) a member who is actively engaged in agricultural production; and

(iv) a member of the public with an interest in parks and recreation.

(b) The fifth member is a member of the fish and wildlife commission who must be designated by the commission.

(3) The board shall elect a presiding officer from its members.

(4) A member must be appointed for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed.

(5) (a) A vacancy must be filled within 14 days of occurrence in the same manner as the original appointment.

(b) A vacancy does not impair the right of the remaining members to exercise the powers of the board.

(6) The board is allocated to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 305, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 28, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 235, L. 2013.

2-15-3405. Appointment of wetlands protection advisory council. (1) The director of fish, wildlife, and parks shall appoint an advisory council pursuant to 2-15-122 to review proposals developed by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks that involve the use of money received by the department under 87-2-411 for the protection, conservation, and development of wetlands in Montana.

(2) The director shall appoint seven members to the advisory council who represent Montana migratory game bird hunters, nonconsumptive users of wildlife, and the agricultural industry, including one member from each administrative region described in 2-15-3402.

(3) Members shall serve staggered, 6-year terms beginning October 1, 2023, and must be appointed so that no more than three appointments expire in any 1 year. To implement staggered terms, the director may specify a shorter length of term for initial members.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 609, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Aquatic ecosystem protections, Title 75, ch. 7.

2-15-3406. State parks and recreation board — composition. (1) There is a state parks and recreation board.

(2) The board consists of five members appointed by the governor, as prescribed in 2-15-124. The governor shall appoint one member from each of the following districts:

(a) District No. 1, consisting of Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Granite, and Lewis and Clark Counties;

(b) District No. 2, consisting of Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson, Broadwater, Gallatin, Park, and Sweet Grass Counties;

(c) District No. 3, consisting of Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Fergus, Blaine, Meagher, and Wheatland Counties;

(d) District No. 4, consisting of Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Petroleum, Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, and Wibaux Counties;

(e) District No. 5, consisting of Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Carter, Fallon, and Prairie Counties.

(3) Appointments must be made without regard to political affiliation and must be made solely for the wise management of state parks and outdoor recreational resources administered pursuant to Title 23, chapter 1, and Title 23, chapter 2, parts 1, 4, and 9.

(4) A person appointed to the board must be informed or experienced in the conservation and protection of state parks, heritage resources, natural resources, tourism promotion and development, or outdoor recreation.

(5) A vacancy on the board must be filled by the governor in the same manner and from the district in which the vacancy occurs.

(6) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124, except that the requirement that at least one member be an attorney does not apply.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 2013.

Part 35
Department of Environmental Quality

2-15-3501. Department of environmental quality — head. There is a department of environmental quality. The department head is the director of environmental quality appointed by the governor in accordance with 2-15-111.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Environmental Protection, Title 75.

2-15-3502. Board of environmental review. (1) There is a board of environmental review.

(2) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor. The members must be representative of the geographic areas of the state. One member must have expertise or background in hydrology. One member must have expertise or background in local government planning. One member must have expertise or background in one of the environmental sciences. One member must have expertise or background as a county health officer or as a medical doctor.

(3) A vacancy occurring on the board must be filled by the governor in the same manner and from the same representative area as the original appointment.

(4) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of 2-15-124.

(5) The board is attached to the department of environmental quality for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

CHAPTER 16
PUBLIC OFFICERS

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Chapter Cross-References

Elected official's business disclosure statement, 2-2-106.

Part 1
General Provisions

2-16-101. Classification of public officers. (1) The public officers of this state are classified as follows:

(a) legislative;

(b) executive;

(c) judicial;
(d) ministerial officers and officers of the courts.
(2) This classification is not to be construed as defining the legal powers of either class.
(3) Executive officers are either:
(a) civil; or
(b) military.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 140, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 49, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 50, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 220; re-en. Sec. 50, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 59-101, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 330, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 125, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 109, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 341; re-en. Sec. 109, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 59-201, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-101, 59-201.

Cross-References

Separation of powers, Art. III, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

2-16-102. Qualifications generally — age and citizenship. (1) Provisions respecting disqualifications for particular offices are contained in the constitution and in the provisions of the laws concerning the various offices.

(2) A person is not eligible to hold civil office in this state who at the time of election or appointment is not 18 years of age or older and a citizen of this state.

(3) A person is not eligible to hold civil office in this state who at the time of the filing deadline for the race is not registered to vote in Montana. An exemption must be granted for an individual who will turn 18 years old before the election, but not before the filing deadline pursuant to 13-1-114.

History: (1)En. Sec. 961, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 343, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 411, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 842; re-en. Sec. 411, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 59-302, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 960, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 342, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 410, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 841; re-en. Sec. 410, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 9, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 94, L. 1973; Sec. 59-301, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-301, 59-302; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 495, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 495, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 16, 2023.

Cross-References

Eligibility for public office, Art. IV, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Qualifications for Legislature, Art. V, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Qualifications for elected executive officers, Art. VI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Qualifications for Supreme Court Justices and District Court Judges, Art. VII, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

2-16-103 through 2-16-106 reserved.

2-16-107. Use of Montana flag at funerals. (1) A public official has the right to have a Montana state flag draped over the casket of the public official. The family of the public official is responsible for providing the flag.

(2) As used in this section, "public official" means a person who was ever elected to a statewide office, a state office from a district, or a countywide office.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 2005.

2-16-108 through 2-16-110 reserved.

2-16-111. Residence of officers. (1) The following officers must reside and keep their offices at the seat of government: the governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, justices of the supreme court, and clerk of the supreme court.

(2) Restrictions upon the residence of other officers are contained in the chapter or part relating to the respective officers.

History: (1)En. Sec. 970, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 345, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 413, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 852; re-en. Sec. 413, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1977; Sec. 59-304, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 974, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 349, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 417, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 417, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 59-308, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-304, 59-308.

Cross-References

Residence requirements for judges, Art. VII, sec. 9(4), Mont. Const.
Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.

2-16-112. Absence from state. Except as provided in 10-1-1008, an officer mentioned in 2-16-111(1) or an officer appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate may not be absent from the state for more than 60 consecutive days unless on business of the state or with the consent of the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 971, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 346, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 414, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 853; re-en. Sec. 414, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-305; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 381, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Vacancy in office created by absence from state, 2-16-501.

2-16-113. Seals. (1) Each of the executive and state officers of the state must have a seal. Such seal must contain the same representations and motto as is found on the great seal and must be 2 inches in diameter, surrounded by the words "State of Montana" (giving the title of the office, "Secretary of State", etc.).

(2) An impression of the seal of executive and state officers must be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

History: En. Sec. 1131, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 431, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 527, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 527, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 19-112.

Cross-References

Description of great seal, 1-1-501.
Duty of Secretary of State to keep descriptions of seals, 2-15-401.

2-16-114. Facsimile signatures and seals. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Authorized officer" means any official of this state or any of its departments, agencies, public bodies, or other instrumentalities or any of its political subdivisions whose signature to a public security or instrument of payment is required or permitted.

(b) "Facsimile signature" means a reproduction by engraving, imprinting, stamping, or other means of the manual signature of an authorized officer.

(c) "Instrument of payment" means a check, draft, warrant, or order for the payment, delivery, or transfer of funds.

(d) "Public security" means a bond, note, certificate of indebtedness, or other obligation for the payment of money issued by this state or by any of its departments, agencies, public bodies, or other instrumentalities or by any of its political subdivisions.

(2) An authorized officer, after filing with the secretary of state or, in the case of officers of any city, town, county, school district, or other political subdivision, with the clerk of the subdivision, the officer's manual signature certified by the officer under oath, may execute or cause to be executed with a facsimile signature in lieu of the manual signature:

(a) any public security, provided that at least one signature required or permitted to be placed on the security must be manually subscribed, but manual subscription is not required for interest coupons attached to the security; and

(b) any instrument of payment.

(3) Upon compliance with this section by the authorized officer, the facsimile signature has the same legal effect as a manual signature.

(4) When the seal of this state or any of its departments, agencies, public bodies, or other instrumentalities or of any of its political subdivisions is required in the execution of a public security or instrument of payment, the authorized officer may cause the seal to be printed, engraved, stamped, or otherwise placed in facsimile on the security or instrument. The facsimile seal has the same legal effect as the impression of the seal.

(5) A person who with intent to defraud uses on a public security or an instrument of payment a facsimile signature or any reproduction of it of any authorized officer or any facsimile seal or any reproduction of it of this state or any of its departments, agencies, public bodies, or other instrumentalities or of any of its political subdivisions is guilty of a felony.

History: En. Secs. 1 thru 4, Ch. 260, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1301, 59-1302, 59-1303, 59-1304; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Facsimile signatures of legislators, 5-2-105.
School district trustees — application for issuance of warrants, 20-9-221.
"School district" to include community college districts, 20-15-403.
Felony — when no penalty specified, 46-18-213.

2-16-115. Signature of officer acting ex officio. When an officer discharges ex officio the duties of an office other than that to which the officer is elected or appointed, the officer's official signature and attestation, except as otherwise provided by law, must be in the name of the office of which the officer discharges the duties.

History: **En. Sec. 1135, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 437, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 454, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 1031; re-en. Sec. 454, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-511; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

2-16-116. Power to administer oaths. Every executive, state, and judicial officer may administer and certify oaths.

History: **En. Sec. 1132, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 434, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 463, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 1028; re-en. Sec. 463, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-533.**

Cross-References

Officers who may administer oaths, 1-6-101.

2-16-117. Office hours. (1) Unless otherwise provided by law, state executive branch offices must be open for the transaction of business continuously from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day except on Saturdays, Sundays, and the holidays specified in 1-1-216(1)(a) through (1)(k). State executive branch offices must be open on state general election day. Each office must also be open at other times as the accommodation of the public or the proper transaction of business requires.

(2) The state treasurer may, in the interest of safekeeping funds, securities, and records, close the state treasurer's office from noon to 1 p.m. each day.

(3) The Montana historical society, established in 22-3-101, may be open for public visitation at hours other than those prescribed in this section, including hours during evenings and weekends.

(4) The department of revenue may establish alternative office hours for its offices located in the various counties if:

(a) the office is staffed by four or fewer full-time employees;

(b) the department holds a public hearing on the alternative office hours in the county seat after providing public notice in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county at least 2 weeks prior to the hearing;

(c) the county commissioners of a county in which the department employees are located in a county building approve the proposed alternative office hours if the alternative hours are outside of the county's normal business hours;

(d) the alternative office hours are adopted by administrative rule; and

(e) the office hours adopted pursuant to subsection (4)(d) are published at least two times a year in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county where the office is located.

History: **En. Sec. 1134, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 436, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 453, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 1030; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 453, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 59-510(1)(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Director of Department of Administration — ex officio State Treasurer, 2-15-1002.

Part 2
Accession to Office

2-16-201. Manner of election of certain officers. The mode of election of the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, and superintendent of public instruction is prescribed by the constitution.

History: **En. Sec. 340, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 128, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 111, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 348; re-en. Sec. 111, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 100, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-203.**

Cross-References

Election of officers, Art. VI, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Elections, Title 13.

2-16-202. Title contested — salary withheld. (1) When the title of the incumbent of any office in this state is contested by proceedings instituted in any court for that purpose, a warrant may not be drawn or paid for any part of the incumbent's salary until the proceedings have been finally determined.

(2) As soon as the proceedings are instituted, the clerk of the court in which they are pending shall certify the facts to the officers whose duty it would otherwise be to draw the warrant or pay the salary.

History: **En. Secs. 1040, 1041, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 375, 376, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 451, 452, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Secs. 936, 937; re-en. Secs. 451, 452, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-508, 59-509; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

2-16-203. Manner of appointments. Every officer, the mode of whose appointment is not prescribed by the constitution or statutes, must be appointed by the governor by and with the advice and consent of the senate.

History: **En. Sec. 990, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 351, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 419, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 875; re-en. Sec. 419, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-401.**

Cross-References

Appointment of department heads by Governor, Art. VI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Executive Branch appointments — generally, Title 2, ch. 15, part 1.
Appointments to subordinate positions by department heads, 2-15-112.

2-16-204. Gubernatorial commissions. (1) The governor shall commission:

(a) all officers elected by the people whose commissions are not otherwise provided for;
(b) all officers of the militia;
(c) all agency heads appointed by the governor with consent of the senate;
(d) United States senators.

(2) The commissions of all officers commissioned by the governor must be issued in the name of the state and must be signed by the governor and attested by the secretary of state under the great seal.

History: **En. Secs. 1002, 1003, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 358, 359, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 426, 427, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Secs. 891, 892; re-en. Secs. 426, 427, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-409, 59-410; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 3, 2023.

Cross-References

Appointment of department heads — consent of Senate, Art. VI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Duties of Secretary of State — authority, 2-15-401.
Appointments by Governor, Title 5, ch. 5, part 3.
Appointment of officers of militia, 10-1-201.
Governor to issue commissions, 13-15-504.
Appointment of U.S. Senator, 13-25-203.

2-16-205. Other commissions. The commissions of all other officers, where no special provision is made by law, must be signed by the presiding officer of the body or by the person making the appointment.

History: **En. Sec. 1004, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 360, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 428, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 893; re-en. Sec. 428, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-411.**

2-16-206 through 2-16-210 reserved.

2-16-211. Oaths — form — before whom — when. (1) Members of the legislature and all officers, executive, ministerial, or judicial, must, before they enter upon the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Montana, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity (so help me God)."

(2) No other oath, declaration, or test must be required as a qualification for any office or public trust.

(3) Except when otherwise provided, the oath may be taken before any officer authorized to administer oaths.

History: **(1), (2)En. Sec. 3, p. 90, L. 1876; re-en. Sec. 575, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1067, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1010, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 362, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 430, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 904; re-en. Sec. 430, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 7, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 100, L. 1973; Sec. 59-413, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1013, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 365, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 433, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 908; re-en. Sec. 433, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 59-416, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-413, 59-416.**

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Who may administer oaths, 1-6-101, 2-16-116.
Vacancy in office created — failure to file official oath within time prescribed, 2-16-501.

2-16-212. Filing. (1) Unless a different time is prescribed by law, the oath of office must be taken, subscribed, and filed within 30 days after the officer has notice of election or appointment or before the expiration of 15 days from the commencement of the term of office when a notice of election or appointment has not been given.

(2) An oath of office, certified by the officer before whom the oath was taken, must be filed within the time required by law, except when otherwise specially provided, as follows:

(a) the oath of all officers whose authority is not limited to any particular county, in the office of the secretary of state;

(b) the oath of all officers, elected or appointed for any county and of all officers whose duties are local or whose residence in any particular county is prescribed by law and of the clerks of the district courts, in the offices of the clerks of the respective counties.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 1, L. 1907; Sec. 364, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 432, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 907; re-en. Sec. 432, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 59-415, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1014, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 366, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 434, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 909; re-en. Sec. 434, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 1949; Sec. 59-417, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-415, 59-417(1), (2); amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-16-213. Term of office — holdover — assumption of office. (1) An office for which the duration is not fixed by law is held at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

(2) An officer shall continue to discharge the duties of the office, although the term has expired, until a successor has qualified.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2), an appointee who is by law subject to confirmation by the senate may, upon expiration of or vacancy in the previous term, assume the office to which appointed and is a de jure officer even though the senate has not yet confirmed the appointment. If the senate rejects the appointment, the office becomes vacant.

History: En. Secs. 993, 994, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 354, 355, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 422, 423, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Secs. 878, 879; re-en. Secs. 422, 423, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-405, 59-406; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 83, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Appointments by Governor, Title 5, ch. 5, part 3.

2-16-214. Definition of current term for purposes of term limits. As used in Article IV, section 8, of the Montana constitution, "current term" means the term served after regular election to a full term to an office and does not include time served in an appointed or an elected capacity in an office to finish the term of the original incumbent after a vacancy has occurred.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 2003.

Part 3
Deputies

2-16-301. Appointment of deputies and subordinate officers — number. (1) All assistants, deputies, and other subordinate officers whose appointments are not otherwise provided for must be appointed by the officer or body to whom they are respectively subordinate.

(2) When the number of such deputies or subordinate officers is not fixed by law, it is limited only by the discretion of the appointing power.

(3) The appointment of deputies not otherwise provided for must be made in writing filed in the office of the appointing power or the office of its clerk.

History: (1)En. Sec. 991, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 352, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 420, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 876; re-en. Sec. 420, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 59-402, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 992, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 353, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 421, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 877; re-en. Sec. 421, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 59-403, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1005, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 361, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 429, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 894; re-en. Sec. 429, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 59-412, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-402, 59-403, 59-412; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Appointment of deputies for county officers, 7-4-2401.

2-16-302. Oath of deputies. Deputies must within 10 days after receiving notice of their appointment take and file an oath in the manner required of their principals.

History: En. Sec. 1015, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 367, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 435, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 910; re-en. Sec. 435, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-418; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 21, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Oaths required of public officers, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212.

2-16-303. Powers. In all cases not otherwise provided for, each deputy possesses the powers and may perform the duties attached by law to the office of the principal.

History: En. Sec. 980, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 350, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 418, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 865; re-en. Sec. 418, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-404; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Part 4
Salaries

2-16-401. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 236, L. 1985.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1974; Sec. 59-1401, R.C.M. 1947; (4) thru (8)Ap. p. Sec. 2, Ch. 66, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 41, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 453, L. 1977; Sec. 59-1402, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 4, Ch. 66, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 41, L. 1974; Sec. 59-1404, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1401, 59-1402, 59-1404(part); amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 184, L. 1979.

2-16-402. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 236, L. 1985.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 66, L. 1973; Sec. 59-1403, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 66, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 41, L. 1974; Sec. 59-1404, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1403, 59-1404(part).

2-16-403. Salaries of supreme court justices. Prior to June 30 of each even-numbered year, the department of administration shall conduct a salary survey of justices and chief justices of the highest appellate courts similar to the Montana supreme court for the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Idaho. The department shall include the salary for a Montana supreme court justice or the chief justice in determining the average salary for a justice and the average salary for the chief justice. If the average salaries are greater than the salaries for a supreme court justice or the chief justice in Montana, then beginning July 1 of the year following the year in which the survey is conducted, the average salaries are the new salaries for a supreme court justice or the chief justice. A justice's salary or the chief justice's salary may not be reduced.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Salaries of District Court Judges, 3-5-211.

2-16-404. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 455, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 462, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 656, L. 1991.

2-16-405. Salaries of certain elected state officials. (1) The salaries paid to the following elected officials are determined as provided in subsection (2):

(a) governor;
(b) lieutenant governor;
(c) attorney general;
(d) state auditor;
(e) superintendent of public instruction;
(f) public service commission presiding officer;
(g) public service commissioners, other than presiding officer;
(h) secretary of state;
(i) clerk of the supreme court.

(2) Before June 30 of each even-numbered year, the department of administration shall conduct a salary survey of executive branch officials with similar titles to the Montana officials listed in subsection (1) for the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Idaho. The department shall include the salary for the Montana official in determining the average salary for the officials with similar titles. If the average salary is greater than the salary for the official in Montana, then beginning July 1 of the year following the year in which the survey is conducted, the average salary is the new salary for the official.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 202, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 187, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 323, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 314, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 297, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 461, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 25-501; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 650, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 605, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 656, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 693, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 462, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Salaries of District Court Judges, 3-5-211.

2-16-406. Salary for all services — how paid. (1) The salary of each officer is for all services that are required of the officer or that may be assigned to the office by law, including all services rendered ex officio as a member of any board, commission, or committee, but may not include actual necessary travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses incidental to official duties.

(2) Unless otherwise provided by law, the salaries of officers must be paid out of the general fund in the state treasury monthly on the last day of the month.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 202, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 187, L. 1961; Sec. 25-501.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1133, Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, p. 114, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 435, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 442, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 442, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 25-507, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 25-501.1(part), 25-507; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Salary to be withheld — contested title to office, 2-16-202.
Travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses, 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.
Supreme Court Justices' salaries, 3-2-104.

Part 5
Vacancy and Succession

2-16-501. Vacancies created. An office becomes vacant on the occurrence of any one of the following events before the expiration of the term of the incumbent:

(1) the death of the incumbent;

(2) a determination pursuant to Title 53, chapter 21, part 1, that the incumbent suffers from a mental disorder and is in need of commitment;

(3) the effective date stipulated in the resignation of the incumbent;

(4) removal of the incumbent from office;

(5) the incumbent's ceasing to be a resident of the state or, if the office is local, of the district, city, county, town, or township for which the incumbent was chosen or appointed or within which the duties of the incumbent's office are required to be discharged;

(6) except as provided in 10-1-1008, absence of the incumbent from the state, without the permission of the legislature, beyond the period allowed by law;

(7) the incumbent's ceasing to discharge the duty of the incumbent's office for the period of 3 consecutive months, except when prevented by sickness, when absent from the state by permission of the legislature, or as provided in 10-1-1008;

(8) conviction of the incumbent of a felony or of an offense involving moral turpitude or a violation of the incumbent's official duties;

(9) the incumbent's refusal or neglect to file the incumbent's official oath or bond within the time prescribed;

(10) the decision of a competent tribunal declaring void the incumbent's election or appointment.

History: En. Sec. 42, p. 385, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 42, p. 468, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 554, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1046, 5th Div. Comp Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1101, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 420, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 511, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 996; re-en. Sec. 511, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-602; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 381, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 266, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 418, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212.
Removal from office — impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.
Vacancy in office of elected state officers, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Bond filing, Title 2, ch. 9, part 5.
Residence of officers, 2-16-111.
Absence from state, 2-16-112.
Notice of vacancy causing occurrence to be given by appropriate official, 2-16-503.
Inability to perform, 2-16-504.
Removal from office — recall, Title 2, ch. 16, part 6.
Vacancies in Legislature, Title 5, ch. 2, part 4.
Vacancies in Board of County Commissioners, 7-4-2106.
Bribery — disqualification from officeholding, 45-7-101.
Official misconduct — suspension and forfeiture of office, 45-7-401.

2-16-502. Resignations. Resignations must be in writing, must stipulate an effective date, and must be submitted as follows:

(1) by the governor and lieutenant governor, to the legislature if it is in session and, if not, then to the secretary of state;

(2) by all officers commissioned by the governor, to the governor;

(3) by senators and members of the house of representatives, if the legislature is not in session, to the secretary of state and, if it is in session, to the presiding officer of the branch to which the member belongs, who must immediately transmit the same to the secretary of state;

(4) by all county and township officers not commissioned by the governor, to the clerk of the board of commissioners of their respective counties;

(5) by all other appointed officers, to the body or officer that appointed them;

(6) by all trustees of school districts, to the clerk of the respective school district, provided for in 20-3-325;

(7) in all cases not otherwise provided for, by filing the resignation in the office of the secretary of state.

History: En. Sec. 41, p. 468, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 553, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1045, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1100, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 419, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 510, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 995; re-en. Sec. 510, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-601; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 418, L. 2017.

2-16-503. Notice of removal. Whenever an officer is removed, committed pursuant to 53-21-127, or convicted of a felony or offense involving moral turpitude or a violation of the officer's official duty or whenever the officer's election or appointment is declared void, the body, judge, or officer before whom the proceedings were conducted shall give notice of the proceedings to the officer authorized to fill the vacancy.

History: En. Sec. 1102, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 421, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 512, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 997; re-en. Sec. 512, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-603; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 490, L. 1997.

2-16-504. Elective officers' inability to perform — filling vacancy — notice. (1) When an incumbent in the office of lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, or superintendent of public instruction is found to be permanently unable to perform the functions of the position, a vacancy exists.

(2) When a written declaration, made as provided in subsection (4), is transmitted to the legislature that any officer enumerated in subsection (1) is unable to discharge the powers and duties of office, the legislature may convene in the manner provided for the convening of special sessions to determine whether the disability exists or it may defer a determination to the next regular session of the legislature.

(3) If the legislature within 21 days after convening, whether in regular or special session, determines by two-thirds vote of its members that the officer is unable to discharge the powers and duties of office, the office is declared to be vacant and must be filled as provided by the constitution of Montana or laws enacted pursuant to the constitution.

(4) The written declaration required under this section must be made and transmitted by the lieutenant governor and attorney general unless one of them is the officer whose disability is in question. If the lieutenant governor is the subject of the declaration, the declaration must be made by the governor and attorney general, and if the attorney general is the subject of the declaration, the declaration must be made by the governor and secretary of state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-609; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Special sessions, Art. V, sec. 6, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 3.

Vacancy in office of elected state officers, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.

2-16-505. Filling vacancies in certain elective offices. A vacancy in the office of the secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, clerk of the supreme court, or superintendent of public instruction must be filled by a person appointed by the governor. The appointee holds office until the first Monday in January after the next general election. At that election, the office must be filled by election for the unexpired term.

History: En. Sec. 1106, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 425, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 516, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 1001; re-en. Sec. 516, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-607; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Time for holding general elections, 13-1-104.

2-16-506. Filling vacancies — recess appointments. (1) When any office becomes vacant and no mode is provided by law for filling the vacancy, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing a qualified person to fill the unexpired term of the person whose office became vacant.

(2) If the legislature or one house of the legislature must confirm an appointment of a person appointed by the governor to fill a vacancy, the governor may appoint the person to assume office before the legislature meets in its next regular session to consider the appointment. A person so appointed is vested with all the functions of the office upon assuming the office and is a de jure officer, notwithstanding the fact that the legislature has not yet confirmed the appointment. If the legislature does not confirm the appointment, the governor shall make a new appointment to fill the unexpired term.

History: En. Sec. 1104, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 423, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 514, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 999; re-en. Sec. 514, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 388, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-605.

Cross-References

Appointment of department heads by Governor, Art. VI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
De jure (lawful) officer — notwithstanding lack of confirmation, 2-15-111.
Appointments by Governor, Title 5, ch. 5, part 3.

2-16-507. Powers and duties of officer filling unexpired term. A person elected or appointed to fill a vacancy, after filing the official oath and bond, possesses all the rights and powers and is subject to all the liabilities, duties, and obligations as if the person had been elected to the office for a full term.

History: En. Sec. 1107, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 426, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 517, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 1004; re-en. Sec. 517, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-608; amd. Sec. 106, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-16-508 through 2-16-510 reserved.

2-16-511. Vacancy in office of governor and lieutenant governor. (1) If the offices of both the governor and the lieutenant governor become vacant, the president of the senate shall become governor and shall appoint a lieutenant governor.

(2) If the president of the senate is unable to assume the office of governor, the speaker of the house shall become governor and a lieutenant governor shall be elected in accordance with the provision of 2-16-512.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1304.1.

Cross-References

Vacancy in office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Art. VI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.

2-16-512. Election by legislature if president of senate and speaker unable to assume office of governor. (1) If neither the president of the senate nor the speaker of the house of representatives is able to assume the office of governor, the legislature, meeting in joint session, shall elect a governor and a lieutenant governor.

(2) When the speaker of the house becomes governor, the legislature will meet in joint session and shall elect a lieutenant governor.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 29, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1304.2.

2-16-513. Succession in case of termination or incapacitation of primary successors. (1) If, because of an enemy attack upon the United States, the governor, lieutenant governor, president pro tempore of the senate, and speaker of the house are killed or rendered unable to serve as governor, the senior member of the legislature shall act as governor.

(2) The senior member of the legislature shall call an emergency session of the legislature at a safe location within the state. The legislature meeting in joint session shall elect a governor.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the member with seniority is the member who has served in the legislature for the longest continuous period of time up to and including the member's current term. If two or more members of the legislature have equal seniority, the line of succession among them is from eldest to youngest in age.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1309; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Continuity in government following enemy attack, Title 10, ch. 3, part 6.

2-16-514. Successor to serve until next general election. The successor to the governor and the lieutenant governor shall serve until the next general election and shall have all the powers, duties, and emoluments of the respective offices.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 29, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1304.3.

Cross-References

Disaster and emergency services, Title 10, ch. 3.

Emergency powers of Governor relating to disaster or attack, 10-3-104, 10-3-305, 10-3-503, 10-3-607.

Time for holding general elections, 13-1-104.

2-16-515. Governor and lieutenant governor incapacitated. (1) If both the governor and lieutenant governor are unable to serve as governor, the president of the senate shall become acting governor until the governor or lieutenant governor is able to resume the duties of the office.

(2) If the president of the senate is unable to become acting governor, the speaker of the house of representatives shall become acting governor.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 29, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1304.4.

2-16-516 through 2-16-520 reserved.

2-16-521. Powers of acting governor. (1) Every provision of the laws of this state in relation to the powers and duties of the governor and in relation to acts and duties to be performed by others toward the governor extends to the persons performing for the time being the duties of governor.

(2) An acting governor has all the rights, duties, and emoluments of the office of governor while acting as governor.

History: (1)En. Sec. 373, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 148, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 127, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 383; re-en. Sec. 127, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-1304, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 29, L. 1973; Sec. 82-1304.5, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1304, 82-1304.5; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Part 6
Montana Recall Act

2-16-601. Short title. This part shall be cited as the "Montana Recall Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-610.

2-16-602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Political subdivision" means a local government unit including but not limited to a county, city, or town established under authority of Article XI, section 1, of The Constitution of the State of Montana or a school district.

(2) "Public office" means a position of duty, trust, or authority created by the constitution or by the legislature or by a political subdivision through authority conferred by the constitution or the legislature that meets the following criteria:

(a) the position must possess a delegation of a portion of the sovereign power of government to be exercised for the benefit of the public;

(b) the powers conferred and the duties to be discharged must be defined, directly or impliedly, by the constitution, the legislature, or by a political subdivision through legislative authority;

(c) the duties must be performed independently and without control of a superior power other than the law, unless the legislature has created the position and placed it under the general control of a superior office or body; and

(d) the position must have some permanency and continuity and not be only temporary or occasional.

(3) "State-district" means a public service commission district, a legislative representative or senatorial district, or a judicial district.

History: En. 59-611 by Sec. 1, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-611.

Cross-References

Judicial districts, 3-5-101.

Legislative representative or senatorial districts — filed with Secretary of State, 5-1-111.

"School district" to include community college districts, 20-15-403.

Public Service Commission districts, 69-1-104.

2-16-603. Officers subject to recall — grounds for recall. (1) Any person holding a public office of the state or any of its political subdivisions, either by election or appointment, is subject to recall from office.

(2) A public officer holding an elective office may be recalled by the qualified electors entitled to vote for the elective officer's successor. A public officer holding an appointive office may be recalled by the qualified electors entitled to vote for the successor or successors of the elective officer or officers who have the authority to appoint a person to that position.

(3) Physical or mental lack of fitness, incompetence, violation of the oath of office, official misconduct, or conviction of a felony offense enumerated in Title 45 are the only grounds for recall. A person may not be recalled for performing a mandatory duty of the office that the person holds or for not performing any act that, if performed, would subject the person to prosecution for official misconduct.

History: En. Sec. 2, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-612; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-16-604 through 2-16-610 reserved.

2-16-611. Method of removal cumulative. The recall is cumulative and additional to, rather than a substitute for, other methods for removal of public officers.

History: En. Sec. 3, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; R.C.M. 1947, 69-613.

Cross-References

Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.
Other methods for removal of public officers, 2-16-501.
Official misconduct — forfeiture of office, 45-7-401.

2-16-612. Persons qualified to petition — penalty for false signatures. (1) A person who is a qualified elector of this state may sign a petition for recall of a state officer.

(2) A person who is a qualified elector of a district of the state from which a state-district officer is elected may sign a petition for recall of a state-district officer of that district or appointed by an officer or the officers of that election district.

(3) A person who is a qualified elector of a political subdivision of this state may sign a petition for recall of an officer of that political subdivision.

(4) A person signing any name other than the person's own to any petition or knowingly signing more than once for the recall or who is not at the time of the signing a qualified elector or a person who knowingly makes a false entry upon an affidavit required in connection with the filing of a petition for the recall of an officer is guilty of unsworn falsification or tampering with public records or information, as appropriate, and is punishable as provided in 45-7-203 or 45-7-208, as applicable.

History: En. Sec. 10, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-620; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Qualified elector defined, Art. IV, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Qualifications of voter, 13-1-111.

2-16-613. Limitations on recall petitions. (1) A recall petition may not name more than one officer to be recalled.

(2) A recall petition against an officer may not be approved for circulation, as required in 2-16-617(3), until an officer has held office for 2 months.

(3) A recall petition may not be filed against an officer for whom a recall election has been held for a period of 2 years during the officer's term of office unless the state or political subdivision or subdivisions financing the recall election are first reimbursed for all expenses of the preceding recall election.

History: (1)En. Sec. 4, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 364, L. 1977; Sec. 59-614, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. Sec. 5, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; Sec. 59-615, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-614(part), 59-615; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-16-614. Number of electors required for recall petition. (1) Recall petitions for elected or appointed state officers must contain the signatures of qualified electors equaling at least 10% of the number of persons registered to vote at the preceding state general election.

(2) A petition for the recall of a state-district officer must contain the signatures of qualified electors equaling at least 15% of the number of persons registered to vote in the last preceding election in that district.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), recall petitions for elected or appointed county officers must contain the signatures of qualified electors equaling at least 15% of the number of persons registered to vote at the preceding county general election.

(b) If a recall petition is for a county commissioner in a county that is divided into commissioner districts pursuant to 7-4-2102, then the petition:

(i) must contain the signatures of qualified electors equaling at least 15% of the number of persons registered to vote at the preceding county general election; and

(ii) must also contain the signatures from at least 15% of the qualified electors residing in that commissioner's commission district.

(4) Recall petitions for elected or appointed officers of municipalities or school districts must contain the signatures of qualified electors equaling at least 20% of the number of persons registered to vote at the preceding election for the municipality or school district.

History: **En. Sec. 4, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-614(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 188, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Register of electors to be kept, 13-2-112.

2-16-615. Filing of recall petitions — mandamus for refusal. (1) Recall petitions for elected officers shall be filed with the official who is provided by law to accept the declaration of nomination or petition for nomination for such office. Recall petitions for appointed state officers shall be filed with the secretary of state and for appointed county or municipal officers shall be filed with the county election administrator. Recall petitions for appointed officers from other political subdivisions shall be filed with the county election administrator if the boundaries of the political subdivisions lie wholly within one county or otherwise with the secretary of state.

(2) If the secretary of state, county election administrator or other filing official refuses to accept and file any petition for recall with the proper number of signatures of qualified electors, any elector may within 10 days after such refusal apply to the district court for a writ of mandamus. If it is determined that the petition is sufficient, the district court shall order the petition to be filed with a certified copy of the writ attached thereto, as of the date when it was originally offered for filing. On a showing that any filed petition is not sufficient, the court may enjoin certification, printing, or recall election.

(3) All such suits or appeals therefrom shall be advanced on the court docket and heard and decided by the court as expeditiously as possible.

(4) Any aggrieved party may file an appeal within 10 days after any adverse order or decision as provided by law.

History: **En. Secs. 6, 12, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; R.C.M. 1947, 59-616, 59-623; amd. Sec. 375, Ch. 571, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Declarations for nominations — whom to file with, 13-10-201.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Mandamus, Title 27, ch. 26.

2-16-616. Form of recall petition. (1) The form of the recall petition must be substantially as follows:

WARNING

A person who knowingly signs a name other than the person's own to this petition, who signs the person's name more than once upon a petition to recall the same officer at one election, or who is not, at the time of signing this petition, a qualified elector of the state of Montana entitled to vote for the successor of the elected officer to be recalled or the successor or successors of the officer or officers who have the authority to appoint a person to the position held by the appointed officer to be recalled is punishable by a fine of no more than $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both, or a fine of $500 or imprisonment in the state prison for a term not to exceed 10 years, or both.

RECALL PETITION

To the Honorable ...., Secretary of State of the State of Montana (or name and office of other filing officer): We, the undersigned qualified electors of the State of Montana (or name of appropriate state-district or political subdivision) respectfully petition that an election be held as provided by law on the question of whether ...., holding the office of ...., should be recalled for the following reasons: (Setting out a general statement of the reasons for recall in not more than 200 words). Each signer certifies: I have personally signed this petition; I am a qualified elector of the state of Montana and (name of appropriate political subdivision); and my residence and post-office address are correctly written after my name to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(2) Numbered lines must follow the language in subsection (1). Each numbered line must contain spaces for the signature, post-office address, and printed last name of the signer. Each separate sheet of the petition must contain the heading and reasons for the proposed recall as prescribed in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 7, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-617; amd. Sec. 112, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-16-617. Form of circulation sheets. (1) The signatures on each petition must be placed on sheets of paper known as circulation sheets. Each circulation sheet must be substantially 8½ x 14 inches or a continuous sheet may be folded so as to meet this size limitation. The circulation sheets must be ruled with a horizontal line 1½ inches from the top of the sheet. The space above the line must remain blank and must be for the purpose of binding.

(2) The petition, for purposes of circulation, may be divided into sections, each section to contain not more than 25 circulation sheets.

(3) Before a petition may be circulated for signatures, a sample circulation sheet must be submitted to the officer with whom the petition must be filed in the form in which it will be circulated. The filing officer shall review the petition for sufficiency as to form and approve or reject the form of the petition, stating the reasons for rejection, within 1 week of receiving the sheet.

(4) The petition form submitted must be accompanied by a written statement containing the reasons for the desired recall as stated on the petition. The truth of purported facts contained in the statement must be sworn to by at least one of the petitioners before a person authorized to administer oaths.

(5) The filing officer shall serially number all approved petitions continuously from year to year.

History: En. Sec. 8, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-618; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Filing officer, 2-16-615.

2-16-618. Forms not mandatory. The forms prescribed in this part are not mandatory, and if substantially followed, the petition shall be sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

History: En. Sec. 9, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; R.C.M. 1947, 59-619.

Cross-References

Substance preferred over form, 1-3-219.

2-16-619. Submission of circulation sheets — certification of signatures. (1) Signed circulation sheets or sections of a petition for recall must be submitted to the officer responsible for registration of electors in the county in which the signatures were obtained within 3 months of the date the form of the petition was approved under 2-16-617.

(2) An affidavit, in substantially the following form, must be attached to each circulation sheet or section submitted to the county officer:

(Name of person circulating petition), being first sworn, deposes and says: I circulated or assisted in circulating the petition to which this affidavit is attached, and I believe that the signatures on the petition are genuine and are the signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be and that the signers knew the contents of the petition before signing the petition.

.... (Signature)

Subscribed and sworn before me this .... day of ....,20...
.... (Person authorized to take oaths)
Seal
.... (Title or notarial information)

History: **En. 59-621 by Sec. 8, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-621; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 51, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Election Administrator responsible for elector registration lists, 13-1-301.

2-16-620. County clerk to verify signatures. (1) The county clerk in each county in which a recall petition is signed shall verify and compare the signatures of each person who has signed the petition to ensure that the person is an elector in that county and, if satisfied that the signatures are genuine, shall certify that fact to the officer with whom the recall petition is to be filed, in substantially the following form:

To the Honorable ...., Secretary of State of the State of Montana (or name and title of other officer):

I, ..., ... (title) of .... County, certify that I have compared the signatures on ...... sheets (specifying number of sheets) of the petition for recall No. ...... attached, in the manner prescribed by law, and I believe ...... (number) signatures are valid for the purpose of the petition. I further certify that the affidavit of the circulator of the (sheet) (section) of the petition is attached and that the post-office address is completed for each valid signature.

Signed: ...... (Date)
........(Signature)
Seal
................(Title)

(2) The certificate is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the certificate, and the secretary of state or other officer receiving the recall petition may consider and count only the signatures that are certified. However, the officer with whom the recall petition is filed shall consider and count any remaining signatures of the registered voters that prove to be genuine, and those signatures must be considered and counted if they are attested to in the manner and form provided for initiative and referendum petitions.

(3) The county clerk and recorder may not retain any portion of a petition for more than 30 days following the receipt of that portion. At the expiration of that period, the county clerk and recorder shall certify the valid signatures on that portion of the petition and deliver the same to the person with whom the petition is required to be filed.

History: **En. Sec. 11, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-622; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 114, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Filing of recall petitions, 2-16-615.
Register of electors to be kept, 13-2-112.
Initiative and referendum petitions, 13-27-238, 13-27-240.

2-16-621. Notification to officer — statement of justification. Upon filing the petition or a portion of the petition containing the number of valid signatures required under 2-16-614, the official with whom it is filed shall immediately give written notice to the officer named in the petition. The notice must state that a recall petition has been filed, must set forth the reasons contained in the petition, and must notify the officer named in the recall petition that the officer has the right to prepare and have printed on the ballot a statement containing not more than 200 words giving reasons why the officer should not be recalled. A statement of justification may not be printed on the ballot unless it is delivered to the filing official within 10 days of the date notice is given.

History: **En. Sec. 14, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; R.C.M. 1947, 59-625; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 159, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

2-16-622. Resignation of officer — proclamation of election. (1) If the officer named in the petition for recall submits a resignation in writing, it must be accepted and become effective 72 hours after it is offered. The vacancy created by the resignation must be filled as provided by law. However, the officer named in the petition for recall may not be appointed to fill the vacancy. If the officer named in the petition for recall refuses to resign or does not resign within 5 days after the petition is filed, an election must be held. If the recall petition was filed between 145 days and 90 days before a general election, the recall election must held at the same time as the general election. If the recall petition was filed more than 145 days or less than 90 days before a general election, a special election must be called.

(2) The call of a special election must be made by the governor in the case of a state or state-district officer or by the board or officer empowered by law to call special elections for a political subdivision in the case of any officer of a political subdivision of the state.

History: En. Sec. 13, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-624; amd. Sec. 116, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 49, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Vacancy in state office — manner of filling, Title 2, ch. 16, part 5.
Vacancy on Supreme Court or in District Court, Title 3, ch. 1, part 9.
Vacancy in Legislature, Title 5, ch. 2, part 4.
Vacancy on Board of County Commissioners, 7-4-2106.
Vacancy in other county offices, 7-4-2206.
Vacancy in municipal elective offices, 7-4-4112.
General elections — date, 13-1-104.
Special elections, 13-1-108.
Vacancy in Office of County Superintendent of Schools, 20-3-202.
Vacancy in school district trustee position, 20-3-309.

2-16-623 through 2-16-630 reserved.

2-16-631. Notice of recall election. The notice of a recall election shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF RECALL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given pursuant to law that a recall election will be held on .... (Date) for the purpose of voting upon the recall of .... who holds the office of ....

DATED at ...., ... (Date)

History: En. Sec. 15, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-626.

Cross-References

Notice of special elections, 13-1-108.

2-16-632. Conduct of special elections. A special election for recall shall be conducted and the results canvassed and certified in the same manner that the law in effect at the time of the election for recall requires for an election to fill the office that is the subject of the recall petition, except as herein otherwise provided. In the case of an official holding a nonelective office, the election shall be conducted and the results canvassed and certified in the same manner that the law in effect at the time of the election for recall requires for an election to fill the office of the person who has the power to appoint such official. The powers and duties conferred or imposed by law upon boards of election, registration officers, canvassing boards, and other public officials who conduct general elections are conferred and imposed upon similar officers conducting recall elections under the provisions of this section together with the penalties prescribed for the breach thereof.

History: En. Sec. 18, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; R.C.M. 1947, 59-629; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 308, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Elections — general provisions, Title 13.
Ballots, Title 13, ch. 12, part 2.

2-16-633. Form of ballot. (1) The ballot at a recall election must set forth the statement contained in the recall petition stating the reasons for demanding the recall of the officer and the officer's statement of reasons why the officer should not be recalled. The question of whether the officer should be recalled must be placed on the ballot in a form similar to the following:

☐ FOR recalling .... who holds the office of ....
☐ AGAINST recalling .... who holds the office of ....

(2) The form of the ballot must be approved as provided in the election laws of this state.

History: En. Sec. 16, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-627; amd. Sec. 117, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Ballots, Title 13, ch. 12, part 2.

2-16-634. Expenses of election. Expenses of a recall election shall be paid in the same manner as the expenses for any other election. The expenditure of such funds constitutes an emergency expenditure of funds, and the political subdivision affected may fund the costs of such an election through emergency funding procedures. In the event a recall election is held for a state or state-district officer, the legislature shall appropriate funds to reimburse the counties involved for costs incurred in running the election.

History: **En. Sec. 19, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-630.**

Cross-References

School finance emergency expenditures, 20-9-161.

2-16-635. Officer to remain in office until results declared — filling of vacancy. The officer named in the recall petition continues in office until the officer resigns or the results of the recall election are officially declared. If a majority of those voting on the question vote to remove the officer, the office becomes vacant and the vacancy must be filled as provided by law. However, the officer recalled may not be appointed to fill the vacancy.

History: **En. Sec. 17, I.M. No. 73, approved November 2, 1976; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 364, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-628; amd. Sec. 118, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Manner of filling vacancies:
State offices, Title 2, ch. 16, part 5.
Supreme Court or District Court, Title 3, ch. 1, part 9.
Legislature, Title 5, ch. 2, part 4.
Board of County Commissioners, 7-4-2106.
Other county officers, 7-4-2206.
Municipal elective offices, 7-4-4112.
County Superintendent of Schools, 20-3-202.
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CHAPTER 17
PROPERTY AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

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2-17-1203. Authority to use state building construction loans.
2-17-1204. Selecting lender for state building construction loan — process.

Part 1
Real Property and Buildings

2-17-101. Allocation of space — leasing — definition. (1) The department of administration shall determine the space required by state agencies other than the legislature and the legislative space designated in 2-17-108, 2-17-114, and 2-17-802 and the university system and shall allocate space in buildings owned or leased by the state, based on each agency's need. To efficiently and effectively allocate space, the department shall identify the amount, location, and nature of space used by each agency, including summary information on average cost per square foot for each municipality, and report this to the office of budget and program planning and to the legislative fiscal analyst by September 1 of each even-numbered year. The report must be provided in an electronic format. The department of administration shall provide a copy of the report to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

(2) An agency requiring additional space shall notify the department. The department, in consultation with the agency, shall determine the amount and nature of the space needed and locate space within a building owned or leased by the state, including buildings in Helena and in other areas, to meet the agency's requirements. If space is not available in a building owned or leased by the state, the department shall locate space to be leased in an appropriate existing building or a build-to-lease building, including buildings in Helena and in other areas, or recommend alternatives to leasing, such as remodeling or exchanging space with another agency. A state agency may not lease, rent, or purchase real property without prior approval of the department.

(3) The location of the chambers for the house of representatives must be determined in the sole discretion of the house of representatives. The location of the chambers for the senate must be determined in the sole discretion of the senate.

(4) The department shall consolidate the offices of state agencies in a single, central location within a municipality whenever the consolidation would result in a cost savings to the state while permitting sufficient space and facilities for the agencies. The department may purchase, lease, or acquire, by exchange or otherwise, land and buildings in a municipality to achieve consolidation. Offices of the law enforcement services division and motor vehicle division of the department of justice are exempted from consolidation.

(5) Except for any lease entered into by the department for the purposes of subsection (4), any lease for more than 40,000 square feet or for a term of more than 20 years must be submitted as part of the long-range building program and approved by the legislature before the department of administration may proceed with the lease. Multiple leases in the same building entered into within any 60-day period are to be aggregated for purposes of this threshold calculation. When immediate relocation of agency employees is required due to a public exigency, the requirements of this subsection do not apply, but the new lease must be reported as required by subsection (1).

(6) The department shall include language in every lease providing that if funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continued performance of the lease in subsequent fiscal periods, the lease must be canceled.

(7) "Public exigency" means that due to unforeseen circumstances a facility occupied by state employees is uninhabitable due to immediate conditions that adversely impact the health or safety of the occupants of the facility.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 271, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3308; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 700, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 594, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 655, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 530, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 375, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 120, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 762, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 101, L. 2023, in (5) at beginning inserted exception clause; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 762, L. 2023, in (1) in middle of first sentence inserted "legislature and the legislative space designated in 2-17-108, 2-17-114, and 2-17-802"; deleted former subsection (3)(b) that read: "(b) Subject to 2-17-108, the department, with the advice of the legislative council, shall allocate other space for the use of the legislature, including but not limited to space for committee rooms and legislative offices"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

2-17-102. Warehouses. The department of administration may maintain, rent, lease, or construct warehouses.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 197, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 286, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 286, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 80, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1903.

2-17-103. Press room. The department of administration may provide space in the capitol for the use of representatives of the press.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 43-601; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 20, L. 1997.

2-17-104. Deductible insurance plan for state buildings and contents — administration. (1) A deductible plan of insurance may be established for use by the state in insuring state buildings and their contents.

(2) The administration of this section shall be placed in the department of administration with the cooperation of the insurance commissioner.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 86, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 78-1102, 78-1103.

Cross-References

Comprehensive insurance plan for state, 2-9-201.

Insurance Commissioner, Title 33, ch. 1, part 3.

2-17-105. Insurance on state buildings — use of proceeds — building replacement. (1) Money received by the state as indemnification for damage to state buildings, except buildings procured by the department of transportation by purchase or condemnation for right-of-way purposes, must be deposited in the state special revenue fund. The money is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, for the purposes of subsections (2) and (3).

(2) The money may only be:

(a) used to repair the damaged property;

(b) used to replace the damaged property, subject to the limitations in subsection (3); or

(c) transferred to the fund and account from which the premiums were paid on the policy covering the building. Money transferred in this manner may not be spent by the institution or agency having custody of the damaged property but must be available for future legislative appropriation. If the money is not spent or committed within 2 years from the time that it is received, the money automatically reverts to the fund and account from which the premiums were paid.

(3) If an insured building is totally destroyed or so badly damaged that repair is impractical, the governing board or officer responsible for the building may request that any money received by the state as indemnification for property damage be used to replace the building only if the proposed replacement is designed to be used for the same general purposes as the damaged or destroyed building. If the governing board or officer determines that the building should not be replaced, any money received by the state as indemnification for property damage over and above any outstanding debt on the building must be transferred as provided in subsection (2)(c).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 78-1101; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 703, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

2-17-106. Repealed. Sec. 156, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 479, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3308.1.

2-17-107. State consideration for use of heritage properties. (1) (a) Prior to the purchase, lease, or rent of space for state agency purposes, the director of the department involved may request the state historic preservation officer to identify existing properties within the geographical area where the space is needed that:

(i) are heritage properties as defined in 22-3-421 which are listed or eligible to be listed in the register of historic places; and

(ii) may be suitable, either in their existing condition or through repair or alteration, for such purposes.

(b) The state historic preservation officer shall provide the requested information within 30 days.

(2) The director may review and give consideration to the properties identified by the state historic preservation officer unless use of the space would not be feasible and prudent compared with available alternatives.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 1983.

2-17-108. Allocation of legislative space. (1) (a) Legislative space in the capitol and on the capitol complex may not be reduced without the consent of the legislature. The control of the rooms, committee hearing rooms, and offices for legislators and session and exempt legislative staff may not be changed without the permission of the speaker of the house of representatives, the minority leader of the house, the president of the senate, and the minority leader of the senate.

(b) From December 1 in an even-numbered year through the 7th day after sine die of a session the:

(i) president of the senate shall allocate and reserve parking spaces in the capitol south lower lot for members of the senate; and

(ii) speaker of the house of representatives shall allocate and reserve parking spaces in the capitol north circle lot for members of the house of representatives.

(2) (a) During the interim between legislative sessions from the day after sine die of a session through December 1 in an even-numbered year, the legislative services division, under the direction of legislative council in consultation with the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, shall schedule and reserve legislative committee hearing rooms.

(b) During the interim between legislative sessions from the 7th day after sine die of a session through December 1 in an even-numbered year, the legislative services division, under the direction of legislative council may allocate up to 30 reserved parking spaces in the capitol north circle lot or the capitol south lower lot for the legislature. At the request of the legislative council, the department shall place permanent reserved signs on the allocated parking spaces.

(3) (a) There are:

(i) five permanent year-round parking spaces in the Capitol south oval lot reserved as legislative parking space, consisting of three spaces allocated to legislative branch division directors, one space allocated for the house representatives, and one space allocated by the legislative services division for the legislative branch;

(ii) seven permanent year-round parking spaces in the capitol south lower lot reserved as legislative parking space allocated to senate leadership, the secretary of the senate, the clerk of the house, the senate sergeant at arms, and the house sergeant at arms;

(iii) four permanent year-round parking spaces in the capitol north circle lot reserved as legislative parking space allocated by the speaker of the house for house leadership; and

(iv) except as provided for in subsection (3)(b), 10 permanent year-round parking spaces on the south side capitol north circle lot adjacent to the capitol building reserved as executive branch space.

(b) From December 1 in an even-numbered year through the 7th day after sine die of a session, one of the executive branch parking spaces provided for in subsection (3)(a)(iv) that is occupied by the secretary of state must revert to the speaker of the house of representatives.

(4) (a) Upon completion of the relocation of the legislative audit division out of the capitol as provided under 2-17-805(6), the legislative council with the concurrence of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee shall allocate office space for five contiguous offices on the first floor of the capitol to the legislative audit division.

(b) If the allocated office space in subsection (4)(a) displaces existing office space for legislative fiscal division or legislative services division staff, the legislative council with the concurrence of legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee shall allocate the equivalent office space for the displaced legislative fiscal division or legislative services division staff on the first floor of the capitol.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 655, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 20, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 762, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 762, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

2-17-109. Renumbered 2-17-810. Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997.

2-17-110. Repealed. Sec. 156, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 700, L. 1983.

2-17-111. Renumbered 2-17-811. Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997.

2-17-112. Fire protection for state-owned buildings — department of administration. The department of administration shall obtain information necessary to prepare a budget for each biennium for fire protection services for state-owned buildings that present particular firefighting and hazardous materials storage problems. In preparing the budget, the state may consider providing protection directly or contracting for protection with a local fire service and making payments to local governments for fire services provided to state agencies, all of which are subject to appropriation by the legislature.

History: **En. 82-3310.1, 82-3310.2 by Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 481, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3310.1, 82-3310.2; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 387, L. 2003.**

2-17-113. Renumbered 2-17-816. Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997.

2-17-114. Reservation of space for legislature — legislative council duties. (1) The legislative space on the capitol complex includes:

(a) in the state capitol:

(i) the entire fourth floor, except for common space;

(ii) the entire third floor, including the senate and house chambers, except for common space;

(iii) the entire first floor, except for the post office space and common space; and

(iv) the entire basement level, except for agency storage space, media space, and common space.

(b) the entire old board of health building located at 1301 Lockey avenue;

(c) additional buildings that may be acquired or constructed for the use of the legislative branch; and

(d) the allocated legislative parking area as provided for in 2-17-108.

(2) (a) Except as provided in 2-17-101(3), 2-17-108, and subsection (2)(b) of this section, the legislative council shall exercise control over the legislative space except for the following:

(i) the capitol complex advisory council and the department responsibilities for the legislative space as provided for in Title 2, chapter 17, part 8; and

(ii) department control of:

(A) central utility functions, including but not limited to mechanical and electronic functions and the electric core of the capitol and the legislative space;

(B) the state telecommunications network;

(C) custodial care, maintenance, and security pursuant to 2-17-811 for the legislative space; and

(D) network infrastructure.

(b) Except as provided for in 2-17-108, legislative council, with consultation of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, shall exercise control over the:

(i) long-range legislative branch capital development plan;

(ii) allocation of legislative space;

(iii) remodeling, alteration, or improvement of legislative space as provided for in 2-17-811;

(iv) purchase, lease, or construction of legislative space; and

(v) allocation of legislative parking area space as provided in 2-17-108.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 762, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 18, Ch. 762, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved May 22, 2023.

2-17-115. Reservation of space for executive branch. (1) The executive branch space on the capitol complex includes:

(a) in the capitol, the entire second floor;

(b) the capitol south oval lot, except the five reserved spaces for the legislature; and

(c) except as provided for in subsection (2), 10 permanent year-round parking spaces on the south side capitol north circle lot adjacent to the capitol building reserved as executive branch space.

(2) From December 1 in an even-numbered year through the 7th day after sine die of a session, one of the executive branch parking spaces provided for in subsection (1)(c) that is occupied by the secretary of state must revert to the speaker of the house of representatives.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 762, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 18, Ch. 762, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved May 22, 2023.

2-17-116 through 2-17-120 reserved.

2-17-121. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 467, L. 1987.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1979.**

2-17-122. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 467, L. 1987.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 144, L. 1979.**

2-17-123. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 467, L. 1987.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 144, L. 1979.**

2-17-124. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 467, L. 1987.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 144, L. 1979.**

2-17-125. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 467, L. 1987.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 144, L. 1979.**

2-17-126. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 467, L. 1987.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 144, L. 1979.**

2-17-127. Repealed. Sec. 74, Ch. 18, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 691, L. 1989.**

2-17-128 through 2-17-130 reserved.

2-17-131. Renumbered 2-17-817. Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997.

2-17-132 through 2-17-134 reserved.

2-17-135. Lease or exchange of historic property. (1) A state agency, after consultation with the state historic preservation officer, shall, to the extent practicable, establish and implement alternatives for historic properties, including adaptive uses, that are not needed for current or projected agency purposes. A state agency may lease a historic property owned by the state agency to any person or organization or exchange any property owned by the state agency for comparable historic property if the state agency head determines that the lease or exchange will adequately ensure the preservation of the historic property. If the consent of the board of land commissioners is required for a property exchange, the state agency must receive approval from the board prior to completing an exchange.

(2) The proceeds of any lease under subsection (1) may be retained by the state agency entering into the lease and used to defray the costs of administration, maintenance, repair, and related expenses incurred by the state agency with respect to the property or other historic properties that are owned by, or are under the jurisdiction or control of, the state agency. Any surplus proceeds from the leases must be deposited into the appropriate fund at the end of the fiscal year in which the proceeds were received.

(3) The head of a state agency with responsibility for the management of a historic property may, after consultation with the state historic preservation officer, enter into contracts for the management of the property. A contract must contain terms and conditions that the head of the state agency considers necessary or appropriate to protect the interests of the state and ensure adequate preservation of the historic property.

(4) As used in this section, "state agency" means a department, board, commission, office, bureau, or other public authority of state government.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 2007.**

Part 2
Property and Supplies

2-17-201. Inspection of property and warehouses. The warehouses, supplies, furnishings, and property of all kinds used in and about the business of the state is subject at all times to the inspection of the department of administration and any officer or employee of any agency.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 66, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 293.13, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1923.**

2-17-202. Inventory — property to be charged to receiving agency. (1) Each person in charge of any state property shall, upon request of the department of administration, furnish a sworn statement of all personal property in the person's possession or under the person's charge belonging to the state, together with an estimate of its value. The person shall furnish any other information in connection with the statement that the department requires.

(2) Each state department, office, board, commission, and institution must be charged with all items of personal property and all other personal property placed at the disposal of the state department, office, board, commission, or institution and must be credited with all worn out, used, lost, injured, or destroyed property from time to time as reported to the department of administration. The entity is responsible for all items of personal property not accounted for. Property may be accounted for as provided in 18-6-101.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 293.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 82-1911, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 66, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 293.2, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-1912, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1911, 82-1912(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 1999.

Part 3
Mailing and Copying

2-17-301. Supervision of mailing and copying facilities. (1) The department of administration shall maintain and supervise any central mailing, messenger service, and copying facilities for state agencies in the capitol area. The central mailing, messenger service, and copying facilities must be capable of supporting state agencies within a 10-mile radius of the capitol.

(2) Cost records must be maintained, and agencies must be billed for services received.

(3) The department of administration shall plan, review, and approve any additional installations of mail equipment for state agencies within a 10-mile radius of the capitol. In approving the installation of additional equipment or systems, the department shall first consult with and consider the recommendations and advice of the department heads of the various state agencies.

History: (1), (3)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 271, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 101, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 313, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 82-3306, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 271, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 82-3307, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3306, 82-3307; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 486, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-302. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 230, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 215, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 326, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3325; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 307, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 1993.

2-17-303. Renumbered 2-17-531. Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-304. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 230, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3329.

2-17-305. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 230, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3330.

2-17-306. Renumbered 2-17-546. Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-307 through 2-17-310 reserved.

2-17-311. Renumbered 2-17-541. Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-312. Renumbered 2-17-542. Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-313. Renumbered 2-17-543. Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-314 through 2-17-320 reserved.

2-17-321. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 1997.

2-17-322. Renumbered 2-17-532. Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-323. Renumbered 2-17-533. Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

Part 4
Vehicles

2-17-401. Title to motor vehicles. The legal title to state-owned motor vehicles shall be held in the name of the state only, and all agencies holding title to motor vehicles are hereby required to transfer the same to the state. In instances where such transfer would affect the federal funding of the agency involved, the agency transferring a vehicle in accordance with this part shall be reimbursed in the amount of the fair value of the vehicle transferred necessary to assure continued participation in federal funding of the program.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 173, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 355, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-514(part).

2-17-402. Seal on motor vehicles. A motor vehicle owned by the state must have a seal, logo, or other form of state ownership identification placed upon the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 175, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 355, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-516; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 535, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 431, L. 1999.

2-17-403. Requisitions for purchases. All requisitions for motor vehicle purchases must be submitted to the department of administration in the manner that the department specifies.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 178, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 355, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-519(1); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 2001.

2-17-404 through 2-17-410 reserved.

2-17-411. Motor pool — department of transportation — exceptions. (1) The department of transportation's motor pool is responsible for the acquisition, operation, maintenance, repair, and administration of all motor vehicles in the custody of the motor pool.

(2) Except as provided in 2-17-425, this part does not apply to a motor vehicle used in the service of the governor or the attorney general.

(3) This part does not apply to a motor vehicle used in the service of the highway patrol.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 173, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 355, L. 1974; Sec. 53-514, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 179, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 53-520, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-514(part), 53-520; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 535, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 463, L. 2009.

2-17-412. Assignment and transfer. (1) The department of transportation may assign the use of state-owned or leased motor vehicles under its control to state officers, state agencies, or employees of state agencies.

(2) All motor vehicles in the custody of the department of transportation that are not placed under custody of the department by 2-17-411 must be equitably transferred to the custody of those agencies that have need of vehicles as demonstrated by use records.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 174, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 355, L. 1974; Sec. 53-515, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 53-519.1 by Sec. 7, Ch. 355, L. 1974; Sec. 53-519.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-515(part), 53-519.1; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 535, L. 1991.

2-17-413. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1999.

History: En. 53-519.2 by Sec. 8, Ch. 355, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-519.2; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 535, L. 1991.

2-17-414. State vehicles to use ethanol-blended gasoline — definition. (1) A department, agency, institution, office, board, and commission of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government and a state institution of higher education owning or operating a motor vehicle capable of burning ethanol-blended gasoline shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the operators of those vehicles use ethanol-blended gasoline in the vehicles if ethanol-blended gasoline is commercially available within the operating area of the vehicle and is priced competitively with the gasoline otherwise used by the vehicle.

(2) For purposes of this section, "ethanol-blended gasoline" means a fuel mixture of gasoline and ethanol produced from agricultural products, including grain and wood or wood products, and that is used for the purpose of effectively and efficiently operating internal combustion engines.

(3) An entity subject to the requirements of subsection (1) may not take any disciplinary, judicial, administrative, or other adverse action against the operator of a motor vehicle for failing to purchase ethanol-blended gasoline for the operation of the motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 462, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 70, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 2007.

2-17-415. Definitions. As used in 2-17-415 through 2-17-418, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" has the meaning provided in 2-15-102, but does not include the office of the governor, the attorney general, or the highway patrol.

(2) "CAFE standard" means the average fuel economy standard as provided in 49 U.S.C. 32904.

(3) "Department" means the department of administration provided for in 2-15-1001.

(4) "Director" means the director of the department.

(5) "Vehicle fleet" means all state vehicles that are owned by the state of Montana except those used in the service of the governor, the attorney general, or the highway patrol.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 470, L. 2007.**

2-17-416. Fuel economy standards — exceptions. (1) The department shall, in coordination with a designated representative in each agency that purchases new vehicles, develop a plan to ensure that each vehicle purchased on or after January 1, 2008, meets or exceeds the CAFE standard.

(2) The director may exempt certain vehicles from the CAFE standard that meet any one of the following conditions:

(a) vehicles that are used primarily in off-road use;

(b) vehicles used for road construction and maintenance;

(c) vehicles used for maintenance, construction, or groundskeeping;

(d) vehicles used primarily for moving and distributing large items or a large quantity of items;

(e) vehicles with a manufacturer-stated seating capacity of more than six persons; or

(f) vehicles using alternative fuels.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 470, L. 2007.**

2-17-417. Vehicle fleet energy conservation plan. (1) Before January 1, 2008, each agency shall develop and implement a program to reduce the fuel consumption of any agency vehicle, other than those vehicles listed in 2-17-416(2), including:

(a) fuel consumption, miles traveled, and vehicle fleet fuel economy;

(b) car pooling and van pooling requirements for state employees when feasible; and

(c) options for cost-effective use of technologies that allow for a reduction in the number of car and van trips.

(2) Each agency shall include materials relating to travel conservation measures in new employee orientation and training materials.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 470, L. 2007.**

2-17-418. Agency records on fuel efficiency measures. Each agency shall keep adequate records to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of 2-17-416 and 2-17-417.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 470, L. 2007.**

2-17-419 and 2-17-420 reserved.

2-17-421. Use — state business only — exception — compensation for driving personal vehicle — penalty for private use. (1) Except as provided in 2-17-424, a state officer or state employee may not use a state-owned or leased motor vehicle for personal use nor be compensated for driving a personal motor vehicle unless that motor vehicle is used on state business.

(2) Except for vehicles that have been approved for confidential license plates by the attorney general in accordance with 44-4-201, a decal must be affixed to the windshield of each state-owned or leased vehicle, with the following information contained on the decal:

"Any officer or employee of state government who uses or authorizes the use of any state-owned or leased motor vehicle in violation of the acceptable use rules provided for in 2-17-424 may be removed from office by the head of the department or establishment concerned."

(3) The head of a department or agency may terminate the employment of any state employee using state-owned or leased vehicles for personal use in violation of the rules provided for in 2-17-424.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 176, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 355, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-517; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 535, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 431, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Mileage allowance — private vehicle for state business, 2-18-503.

2-17-422. Operating history. Each state agency shall maintain motor vehicle operating history records for motor vehicles under control of the agency. These records must show the purchase price of the vehicle and the items of expense incurred in the operation of the vehicle, including the expenses of gas, oil, repairs, labor, storage, and service. A complete summary of the operating cost and history record of all state-owned or leased vehicles and trucks must be prepared for each fiscal year.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 178, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 355, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-519(2); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 535, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1999.

2-17-423. Rules. (1) The department of transportation may adopt and enforce reasonable rules governing the maintenance and operation of motor vehicles under control of the department.

(2) The department shall establish reasonable rules governing:

(a) the manner and procedure by which motor pool vehicles may be rented or leased to state officials, state agencies, or state employees;

(b) procedures for determining when a motor pool vehicle is not available for use; and

(c) rental charges for a motor pool vehicle that may include reimbursement of actual costs for administration, maintenance, service, operation, storage, replacement, and disposal costs.

(3) The department shall adopt and formulate travel rules providing:

(a) for scheduling of motor pool vehicles and filing an application for travel showing destination and date and time of departure and;

(b) for filing a report upon completion of the trip, showing mileage traveled and date and time of return.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 174, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 355, L. 1974; Sec. 53-515, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 53-519.3 by Sec. 11, Ch. 355, L. 1974; Sec. 53-519.3, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 177, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 355, L. 1974; Sec. 53-518, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-515(part), 53-518, 53-519.3; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 535, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 431, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

2-17-424. Acceptable uses — rulemaking. (1) The department of administration shall adopt reasonable rules defining the acceptable uses for a state-owned or leased motor vehicle. The rules may allow for limited personal use of a state-owned or leased motor vehicle for emergency, travel-related purposes and other lawful activities that do not result in excessive mileage or excessive wear and tear on the motor vehicle. The rules may not permit the routine personal use of a state-owned or leased vehicle that is assigned to an employee on a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week basis.

(2) The department of administration shall adopt reasonable rules governing the determination of when the use of privately owned vehicles on state business may be justified as in the best interest of the state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1999.

2-17-425. Limit on use of state vehicle to commute to worksite — definitions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a state-owned vehicle may not be used by a state agency employee to commute from the employee's residence to the employee's worksite.

(2) (a) The department director may authorize an exception to subsection (1) if the commute from an employee's residence to the employee's worksite is less than 30 miles, the employee is required to be on call for quick response to an emergency that threatens life or property and on-call duty is a specifically identified duty in the employee's position description, and employees in the position have frequently responded to emergency calls in the past 6 months.

(b) Any exception authorized pursuant to subsection (2)(a) and the rationale for the exception must be documented in a memorandum or letter signed by the employee's department director and kept on file with the agency head. A copy of the letter or memorandum must be sent to the governor.

(c) This section does not apply:

(i) to the psychiatrist employed by the department of corrections and assigned to the Montana state prison;

(ii) when the vehicle is, in effect, the employee's worksite; or

(iii) when 24-hour use of a state-owned vehicle is specifically authorized by law for an elected or appointed state official and use of the vehicle is considered part of the official's compensation package.

(3) Using a state-owned vehicle to commute between the employee's residence and a worksite that is more than 30 miles from the employee's residence is not permitted under any circumstance unless that use is authorized by the employee's department director pursuant to rules adopted under 2-17-424, the rationale for the exception is documented in a memorandum or letter signed by the employee's department director and kept on file with the agency head, and a copy of the letter or memorandum is sent to the governor.

(4) As used in this section, "state agency" or "agency" means any office, board, commission, department, or other entity of the executive, judicial, or legislative branch of state government, including the university system.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 463, L. 2009.

2-17-426 through 2-17-430 reserved.

2-17-431. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 174, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 355, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-515(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 535, L. 1991.

2-17-432. Violation a misdemeanor. A state officer or employee violating this part is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 320, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 180, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-521; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 535, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Misdemeanor, 46-18-212.

Part 5
Information Technology — Internet Privacy

Part Cross-References

Legislative Branch information technology planning, Title 5, ch. 11, part 4.

Telecommunications and data processing contracts — application of purchasing laws, 18-4-132.

Telecommunications and data processing contracts — terms, extensions, and time limits, 18-4-313.

2-17-501. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 175, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 486, L. 1983; MCA 1981, 18-4-111; redes. 2-17-501 by Code Commissioner, 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1993.

2-17-502. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 486, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 76, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1997.

2-17-503. Renumbered 2-17-534. Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-504. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Information Technology Act".

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-505. Policy. (1) It is the policy of the state that information technology be used to improve the quality of life of Montana citizens by providing educational opportunities, creating quality jobs and a favorable business climate, improving government, and protecting individual privacy and the privacy of the information contained within information technology resources.

(2) It is the policy of the state that the development of information technology resources in the state must be conducted in an organized, deliberative, and cost-effective manner.

(3) It is the policy of the state that information technology is essential and vital to the people of the state of Montana, and the services, systems, and infrastructure are therefore considered to be an asset of the state.

(4) It is the policy of the state that commercial off-the-shelf information technology resources be used whenever feasible, rather than the commissioning of custom solutions.

(5) The following principles must guide the development of information technology resources:

(a) There are statewide information technology policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines applicable to all state agencies and other entities using an information technology resource.

(b) Mitigation of risks is a priority in order to protect individual privacy and the privacy of information contained within information technology resources as they become more interconnected and as the liabilities stemming from the risk to information technology have increased.

(c) Whenever feasible and not an undue risk, common data is entered once and shared among government entities at any level or political subdivision.

(d) Third-party providers of data, such as citizens, businesses, and other government entities, are responsible for the accuracy and integrity of the data provided to government entities.

(e) Third-party providers of information technology resources, such as infrastructure as a service, platform as a service, and software as a service, shall comply with state security and information technology policies, risk management framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines when providing information technology resources to government entities.

(f) Government entities are required to conduct business through open, transparent processes to ensure accountability to the citizenry, and information technology provides access to information through simple and expeditious procedures.

(g) In order to minimize duplication, shared or similar information technology resources and data management applications must be implemented and managed in a coordinated manner.

(h) Planning and development of information technology resources are conducted in conjunction with budget development and approval.

(i) Information technology resources are deployed aggressively whenever it can be shown that it will provide improved services to Montana citizens.

(j) Public-private partnerships are used to deploy information technology resources when practical and cost-effective.

(k) Information technology resources are developed in cooperation with the federal government and local governments with the objective of providing seamless access to information and services to the greatest degree possible.

(l) Information technology resources are able to accommodate digital transmissions between the state and its citizens, businesses, and other government entities, including providing incentives for citizens and businesses to use digital government services.

(m) Information technology resources are able to embrace the economics of digitized records to avoid duplication and transport costs.

(n) Digital record creation, management, storage, and retrieval processes and procedures are used to create and deliver professional records management experiences for the citizens of Montana.

(o) Information technology resources are able to embrace continuous process improvement initiatives in order to keep pace with new and emerging technologies and delivery channels in order to allow citizens to determine when, where, and how they interact with government agencies.

(6) It is the policy of the state that the department must be accountable to the governor, the legislature, and the citizens of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-506. Definitions. In this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the information technology board established in 2-15-1021.

(2) "Chief data privacy officer" means a person appointed by the department to serve as chief data policy advisor to the director of the department on privacy protection issues, including the implementation of data privacy protections, compliance with federal laws, regulations, and policies relating to data privacy, management of data privacy risks at the department, and development and evaluation of legislative, regulatory, and other policy proposals.

(3) "Chief information officer" means a person appointed by the director of the department to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the department relating to information technology.

(4) "Commercial off-the-shelf information technology resources" means commercially available information technology resources that are ready-made, are primarily configurable, and can be adapted after purchase to meet the needs of the state.

(5) "Data" means any information stored on information technology resources.

(6) "Department" means the department of administration established in 2-15-1001.

(7) "Digital" means electronic data and the information technology resources used to store, retrieve, and send data.

(8) "Digital access system" means a system capable of making data accessible by means of an information technology resource.

(9) "Information technology resource" means any hardware, software, and associated services, including state and third-party platforms, networks, systems, or facilities, used to store or transmit information in any form.

(10) "Long-range information technology capital project" means a discrete long-range information technology system or application, including the replacement or upgrade to existing systems.

(11) "State agency" means any entity of the executive branch, including the university system.

(12) "State telecommunications network" means information technology resources administered by the department for the transmission of voice, video, or electronic data from one device to another.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 106, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 365, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: Section 1, Ch. 38, L. 2023, deleted definition of private safety agency that read: ""Private safety agency" has the same meaning as provided in 10-4-101"; deleted definition of public safety agency that read: ""Public safety agency" has the same meaning as provided in 10-4-101"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 4, Ch. 365, L. 2023, inserted definitions of chief data privacy officer, commercial off-the-shelf information technology resources, and digital; deleted definition that read: ""Central computer center" means any stand-alone or shared computer and associated equipment, software, facilities, and services administered by the department for use by state agencies"; substituted "digital access system" for "electronic access system" as defined term and at end after "information technology" substituted "resource" for "facility in a voice, video, or electronic data form, including but not limited to the internet"; substituted "information technology resource" for "information technology" as defined term and substituted current definition for: "means hardware, software, and associated services and infrastructure used to store or transmit information in any form, including voice, video, and electronic data"; substituted "state telecommunications network" for "statewide telecommunications network" as defined term and after "means" substituted "information technology resources" for "any telecommunications facilities, circuits, equipment, software, and associated contracted services"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-507 through 2-17-510 reserved.

2-17-511. Chief information officer — duties. The duties of the chief information officer include but are not limited to:

(1) carrying out all powers and duties of the department as assigned by the director of the department;

(2) serving as the chief policy advisor to the director of the department on statewide information technology issues; and

(3) assisting and advising the director of the department on the enforcement responsibilities provided in 2-17-514.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 2001.**

2-17-512. Powers and duties of department. (1) The department is responsible for carrying out the planning and program responsibilities for information technology for state government, except the national guard. The department shall:

(a) encourage and foster the use of new and innovative information technology within state government;

(b) promote, coordinate, and approve the procurement or development of shared information technology application software, management systems, and information that provide similar functions for multiple state agencies;

(c) cooperate with the office of economic development to promote economic development initiatives based on information technology;

(d) establish and enforce a state strategic information technology plan as provided for in 2-17-521;

(e) establish and enforce statewide information technology policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines;

(f) review and approve state agency information technology plans provided for in 2-17-523;

(g) coordinate with the office of budget and program planning to evaluate budget requests that include information technology resources. The department shall make recommendations to the office of budget and program planning for the approval or disapproval of information technology budget requests, including an estimate of the useful life of the asset proposed for purchase and whether the amount should be expensed or capitalized, based on state accounting policy established by the department. An unfavorable recommendation must be based on a determination that the request is not provided for in the approved agency information technology plan provided for in 2-17-523.

(h) staff the information technology board provided for in 2-15-1021;

(i) fund the administrative costs of the information technology board provided for in 2-15-1021;

(j) review the use of information technology resources for all state agencies;

(k) review and approve state agency specifications and procurement methods for the acquisition of information technology resources;

(l) review, approve, and sign all state agency contracts and shall review and approve other formal agreements for information technology resources provided by the private sector and other government entities;

(m) broker, operate, and maintain information technology resources for the use of state government, political subdivisions, and other participating entities under terms and conditions established by the department;

(n) operate and maintain a state telecommunications network for the use of state government, political subdivisions, and other participating entities under terms and conditions established by the department;

(o) ensure that the state telecommunications network is properly maintained. The department may establish a centralized maintenance program for the state telecommunications network.

(p) provide access to digital information and services of the state as provided for in 2-17-532;

(q) provide assistance to the legislature, the judiciary, the governor, and state agencies relative to state and interstate information technology matters;

(r) establish rates and other charges for services provided by the department;

(s) accept federal funds granted by congress or by executive order and gifts, grants, and donations for any purpose of this section;

(t) dispose of personal property owned by it in a manner provided by law when, in the judgment of the department, the disposal best promotes the purposes for which the department is established;

(u) implement this part and all other laws for the use of information technology in state government;

(v) provide a biennial report to the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee and to the legislature as provided in 5-11-210 on the information technology activities of the department;

(w) represent the state with public and private entities on matters of information technology; and

(x) provide full oversight authority over all custom-developed code for all state agencies.

(2) If it is in the state's best interest, the department may contract with qualified private organizations, foundations, or individuals to carry out the purposes of this section.

(3) The director of the department shall appoint the chief information officer to assist in carrying out the department's information technology duties.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 106, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 38, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 365, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 38, L. 2023, deleted former (1)(p) and (1)(q) that read: "(p) coordinate public safety communications on behalf of public and private safety agencies as provided for in 2-17-543 through 2-17-545;

(q) manage the state 9-1-1 program as provided for in Title 10, chapter 4, part 3"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 5, Ch. 365, L. 2023, in (1)(a) substituted "use" for "development"; in (1)(b) substituted "procurement or development" for "development and sharing"; in (1)(e) substituted "policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines" for "policies and standards"; in (1)(m) at beginning substituted "broker, operate, and maintain information technology resources" for "operate and maintain a central computer center"; in (1)(n) and in (1)(o) in two places substituted "state" for "statewide"; in (1)(p) substituted "access to digital information" for "electronic access to information"; inserted (1)(x) regarding oversight authority; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-513. Duties of board. The board shall:

(1) provide a forum to:

(a) guide state agencies, the legislative branch, the judicial branch, and local governments in the development and deployment of intergovernmental information technology resources;

(b) share information among state agencies, local governments, and federal agencies regarding the development of information technology resources;

(2) advise the department:

(a) in the development of cooperative contracts for the purchase of information technology resources;

(b) regarding the creation, management, and administration of digital government services and information on the internet;

(c) regarding the administration of digital government services contracts;

(d) on the priority of government services to be provided digitally;

(e) on convenience fees prescribed in 2-17-1102 and 2-17-1103, if needed, for digital government services; and

(f) on any other aspect of providing digital government services;

(3) review and advise the department on:

(a) statewide information technology policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines;

(b) the state strategic information technology plan;

(c) major information technology budget requests;

(d) rates and other charges for services established by the department as provided in 2-17-512(1)(r);

(e) requests for exceptions as provided for in 2-17-515;

(f) notification of proposed exemptions by the university system and office of public instruction as provided for in 2-17-516;

(g) action taken by the department as provided in 2-17-514(1) for any activity that is not in compliance with this part;

(h) the implementation of major information technology projects and advise the respective governing authority of any issue of concern to the board relating to implementation of the project; and

(i) financial reports, management reports, and other data as requested by the department;

(4) study state government's present and future information technology needs and advise the department on the use of emerging technology in state government;

(5) request information and reports that it considers necessary from any entity using or having access to the state telecommunications network or information technology resources;

(6) assist in identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing potential departmental and interagency digital government services;

(7) serve as a central coordination point for digital government services provided by the department and other state agencies;

(8) study, propose, develop, or coordinate any other activity in furtherance of digital government services as requested by the governor or the legislature; and

(9) prepare and submit to the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 a report including but not necessarily limited to a summary of

the board's activities, a review of the [digital] government program established under part 11 of this chapter, and any key findings and recommendations that the board presented to the department.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 237, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 38, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 365, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section — Code Commissioner Correction: Section 3, Ch. 38, L. 2023, in (3)(d) substituted "2-17-512(1)(r)" for "2-17-512(1)(t)". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 6, Ch. 365, L. 2023, throughout section substituted "digital" for "electronic" and "digitally" for "electronically"; in (3)(a) at end substituted "policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines" for "standards and policies"; and in (5) substituted "state telecommunications network or information technology resources" for "statewide telecommunications network or central computer center". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

The code commissioner has inserted the bracketed language in (9) to reflect revisions to terminology contained in Ch. 365, L. 2023, which generally changed the term "electronic government program" to "digital government program".

2-17-514. Department — enforcement responsibilities. (1) If the department determines that an agency is not in compliance with the state strategic information technology plan provided for in 2-17-521, the agency information technology plan provided for in 2-17-523, or the statewide information technology policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines provided for in 2-17-505 and 2-17-512, the department may cancel or modify any contract, project, or activity that is not in compliance.

(2) If the department determines that an agency is not in compliance with the state security policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines provided for in 2-17-534, the department may take appropriate action, in its sole discretion, up to and including terminating the information technology resource and requiring the use of an alternative information technology resource.

(3) Any contract entered into by an agency that includes information technology resources must include language developed by the department that references the department's enforcement responsibilities provided for in subsection (1). A contract that does not contain the required language is considered to be in violation of state law and is voidable pursuant to subsection (1). The language developed by the department may not be varied pursuant to 18-4-224.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 365, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Security responsibilities of Departments for data and information technology resources, 2-15-114.

2-17-515. Granting exceptions to state agencies. Subject to 2-17-516, the department may grant exceptions to any policy, standard, or other requirement of this part if it is in the best interests of the state of Montana. The department shall inform the governor, the office of budget and program planning, and the legislative finance committee of all exceptions that are granted and of the rationale for granting the exceptions. The department shall maintain written documentation that identifies the terms and conditions of the exception and the rationale for the exception. If an exception is granted, the department shall provide the written documentation in accordance with 5-11-210.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 365, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-516. Exemptions — department of justice — secretary of state — university system — state auditor — office of public instruction — national guard. (1) Unless the proposed activities would detrimentally affect the operation of any information technology resource or the state telecommunications network, the office of public instruction, the office of the state auditor, and the secretary of state are exempt from 2-17-512(1)(k) and (1)(l).

(2) Unless the proposed activities would detrimentally affect the operation of any information technology resource or the state telecommunications network, the department of justice and the university system are exempt from:

(a) the enforcement provisions of 2-17-512(1)(d) and (1)(e) and 2-17-514;
(b) the approval provisions of 2-17-512(1)(f), 2-17-523, and 2-17-527;
(c) the budget approval provisions of 2-17-512(1)(g); and
(d) the provisions of 2-17-512(1)(k) and (1)(l).

(3) The department of justice, the secretary of state, the university system, the office of the state auditor, and the office of public instruction shall notify the department of proposed activities by using the department's approved process, and the department shall determine if any information technology resource or the state telecommunications network would be detrimentally affected by the proposed activity.

(4) (a) For purposes of this section, a proposed activity affects the operation of any information technology resource or the state telecommunications network if it detrimentally affects the processing workload, reliability, cost of providing service, or support service requirements of any information technology resource or the state telecommunications network or fails to meet the minimum security policies and standards set by the department.

(b) Potential loss of revenue from fees paid by the department of justice, the secretary of state, the university system, the office of the state auditor, or the office of public instruction for not utilizing services offered by the department are not considered a detrimental effect to any information technology resource or the state telecommunications network. If the department of justice, the secretary of state, the university system, the office of the state auditor, or the office of public instruction does not utilize a service program after the department's rate was set for the biennium, the agency shall continue to pay any fees associated with the service or program for the remainder of the biennium.

(5) When reviewing proposed activities of the university system, the department shall consider and make reasonable allowances for the unique educational needs and characteristics and the welfare of the university system as determined by the board of regents.

(6) When reviewing proposed activities of the office of public instruction, the department shall consider and make reasonable allowances for the unique educational needs and characteristics of the office of public instruction to communicate and share data with school districts.

(7) When reviewing proposed activities of the department of justice or the office of the state auditor, the department shall consider and make reasonable allowances for the unique safety and security needs and characteristics of the department of justice or the office of the state auditor to communicate and share data with federal, state, and local law enforcement entities.

(8) Section 2-17-512(1)(s) may not be construed to prohibit the university system from accepting federal funds or gifts, grants, or donations related to information technology or telecommunications.

(9) The national guard, as defined in 10-1-101(3), is exempt from 2-17-512.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 237, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 448, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 38, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 4, Ch. 38, L. 2023, in (8) substituted "2-17-512(1)(s)" for "2-17-512(1)(u)". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 9, Ch. 365, L. 2023, throughout section substituted "any information technology resource or the state telecommunications network" for "the central computer center or the statewide telecommunications network"; in (1) after "office of public instruction" inserted "the office of the state auditor"; in (3) at beginning deleted first clause that read: "The department, upon notification of proposed activities by" and near middle after "office of public instruction" inserted "shall notify the department of proposed activities by using the department's approved process, and the department"; in (3) and (4)(b) in two places after "the university system" inserted "or the office of the state auditor"; in (7) two places after "the department of justice" inserted "or the office of the state auditor"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-517. Legislative and judicial branch information sharing. The legislative branch and the judicial branch shall provide their information technology plans to the department.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-518. Rulemaking authority. (1) The department shall adopt rules to implement this part, including the following:

(a) rules to guide the review and approval process for state agency software and management systems that provide similar functions for multiple state agencies, which must include but are not limited to:

(i) identifying the software and management systems that must be approved;

(ii) establishing the information that state agencies are required to provide to the department; and

(iii) establishing guidelines for the department's approval decision;

(b) rules to guide the review and approval process for state agency acquisition of information technology resources, which must include but are not limited to processes and requirements for:

(i) agency submissions to gain approval for acquiring information technology resources;

(ii) approving specifications for information technology resources; and

(iii) approving contracts for information technology resources; and

(c) rules for granting exceptions from the requirements of this part, which must include but are not limited to:

(i) a process for applying for an exception; and

(ii) guidelines for determining the department's approval decision.

(2) The department may adopt rules to guide the development of state agency information technology plans. The rules may include:

(a) agency plan review procedures;

(b) agency plan content requirements;

(c) guidelines for the department's approval decision; and

(d) dispute resolution processes and procedures.

(3) Adequate rules for the use of any information technology resources must be adopted by the supreme court for judicial branch agencies.

(4) The legislative council shall adopt enterprise principles and technical standards within an enterprise architecture program as a part of the legislative branch information technology plan, as provided for in 5-11-405, that will fulfill the intent of adequate rules for use of information technology resources for the consolidated legislative branch, as provided for in 5-2-504.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 284, L. 2013.

2-17-519 and 2-17-520 reserved.

2-17-521. State strategic information technology plan — biennial report. (1) The department shall prepare a state strategic information technology plan. The department shall seek the advice of the board in the development of the plan.

(2) The plan must:

(a) reflect the policies as set forth in 2-17-505 and 2-17-512 and be in accordance with statewide policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines established by the department;

(b) establish the statewide mission, goals, and objectives for the use of information technology, including goals for electronic access to government records, information, and services; and

(c) establish the strategic direction for how state agencies will develop and use information technology resources to provide state government services.

(3) The department shall update the plan as necessary. The plan and any updates must be distributed as provided in 2-17-522.

(4) The department shall prepare a biennial report on information technology based on agency information technology plans and performance reports required under 2-17-524 and other information considered appropriate by the department. The biennial report must include:

(a) an analysis of the state's information technology infrastructure, including its value, condition, and capacity;

(b) an evaluation of performance relating to information technology;

(c) an assessment of progress made toward implementing the state strategic information technology plan;

(d) an inventory of information technology resources;

(e) agency budget requests for major projects; and

(f) other information as determined by the department or requested by the governor or the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 10, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-522. State strategic information technology plan — distribution. (1) The department shall distribute the state strategic information technology plan and the biennial report to the governor and to the legislature as provided in 5-11-210.

(2) Updates to the state strategic information technology plan must be provided to the governor by March 1 of each even-numbered year and to the legislative finance committee at its next scheduled meeting after March 1.

(3) By April 1 of each even-numbered year, the updated state strategic information technology plan must be distributed to all state agencies with instructions and schedules for updating and approving agency information technology plans in accordance with 2-17-527.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-523. Agency information technology plans — policy. (1) Each state agency is required to develop and maintain an agency information technology plan. The agency information technology plans must reflect the content and format requirements specified in 2-17-524.

(2) An agency information technology plan must be submitted to and approved by the department as described in 2-17-527.

(3) New investments in information technology resources can be included in the governor's budget only if the technology is in the agency information technology plan and is in support of the state information technology strategic plan.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 11, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-524. Agency information technology plans — form and content — performance reports. (1) Each agency's information technology plan must include but is not limited to the following:

(a) a statement of the agency's mission, goals, and objectives for information technology, including a discussion of how the agency uses or plans to use information technology to provide mission-critical services to Montana citizens and businesses;

(b) an explanation of how the agency's mission, goals, and objectives for information technology support and conform to the state strategic information technology plan required in 2-17-521;

(c) a baseline profile of the agency's current information technology resources and capabilities that:

(i) includes sufficient information to fully support state-level review and approval activities; and

(ii) will serve as the basis for subsequent planning and performance measures;

(d) an evaluation of the baseline profile that identifies real or potential deficiencies or obsolescence of the agency's information technology resources and capabilities;

(e) a list of new technology strategies and resources required to meet the objectives of the agency's information technology plan. The investment required for the new projects and resources must be developed using life-cycle cost analysis, including the initial investment, maintenance, and replacement costs, and must fulfill or support an agency's business requirements.

(f) when feasible, estimated schedules and funding required to implement identified projects; and

(g) any other information required by law or requested by the department, the governor, or the legislature.

(2) Each agency's information technology plan must project activities and costs over a 6-year time period, consisting of the biennium during which the plan is written or updated and the 2 subsequent bienniums.

(3) Each agency shall prepare and submit to the department a biennial performance report that evaluates progress toward the objectives articulated in its information technology plan. The report must include:

(a) an evaluation of the agency's performance relating to information technology;

(b) an assessment of progress made toward implementing the agency information technology plan; and

(c) an inventory of agency information technology resources.

(4) State agencies shall prepare agency information technology plans and biennial performance reports using standards, elements, forms, and formats specified by the department.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-525 reserved.

2-17-526. Information technology project budget summary. (1) (a) The office of budget and program planning, in cooperation with the department, shall prepare a statewide summary of:

(i) proposed major new information technology strategic objectives contained in the state budget; and

(ii) proposed major information technology purchases or implementation impacting another state agency or branch of government to be funded within the current operating budgets, including replacement of or upgrade to existing systems.

(b) The office of budget and program planning and the department shall jointly determine the criteria for classifying a project as a major information technology project.

(2) The information technology strategic objective summary must include:

(a) a listing by institution, agency, or branch of all proposed major information technology purchases or implementations described in subsection (1). Each proposed purchase or implementation included on the list must include:

(i) a description of what would be accomplished by completing the purchase or implementation;

(ii) a list of the existing information technology applications for all branches of government that may be impacted by the purchase or implementation;

(iii) an estimate, prepared in consultation with the impacted agencies, of the costs and resource impacts on existing information technology applications;

(iv) the estimated cost of the purchase or implementation;

(v) the source for funding the purchase or implementation, including funds within an existing operating budget or a new budget request; and

(vi) the estimated cost of operating information technology resources.

(b) a listing of internal service rates proposed for providing information technology services. Each internal service rate included on the list must include:

(i) a description of the services provided; and

(ii) a breakdown, aggregated by fund type, of requests included in the state budget to support the rate.

(c) any other information as determined by the budget director or the department or as requested by the governor or the legislature.

(3) The information technology project summary must be presented to the legislative fiscal analyst in accordance with 17-7-111(4).

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 13, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-527. Agency information technology plans — review and approval — updates. (1) Plans and reports required under 2-17-524 must be submitted to the department for review and approval according to a schedule adopted by the department. The schedule must provide for approval of plans no later than June 30 in each even-numbered year.

(2) The department may reject, require modification of, or approve agency information technology plans as considered appropriate by the department. The primary basis for evaluating agency information technology plans must be conformity to the state strategic information technology plan, as provided for in 2-17-521.

(3) Agency information technology plans must be updated and are subject to review and approval whenever substantive changes occur to an agency's information technology profile. Plan updates must be submitted to the department in a timely manner and may not be held until the next biennial reporting cycle.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 313, L. 2001.**

2-17-528 through 2-17-530 reserved.

2-17-531. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 237, L. 2015.

History: **En. 82-3325.1 and 82-3325.2 by Sec. 2, 3, Ch. 315, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3325.1, 82-3325.2; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 313, L. 2001; Sec. 2-17-303, MCA 1999; redes. 2-17-531 by Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.**

2-17-532. Establishment. (1) The department shall establish and maintain appropriate information technology resources for state agencies for use in access to information and services by citizens, businesses, and other government entities. State agencies shall establish digital access systems that meet minimum technical standards established by the department. Agencies involved in communicating information or providing services to the public shall use these systems to provide appropriate information to the public, including but not limited to:

(a) descriptions of agency functions, including contact information;

(b) agency program services provided to citizens, businesses, and other government entities;

(c) environmental assessments;

(d) rulemaking notices;

(e) board vacancy notices as required by 2-15-201;

(f) agency reports mandated by statute;

(g) parks reports required by 23-1-110;

(h) requests for bids or proposals; and

(i) public meeting notices and agendas.

(2) The purpose of digital access systems is to encourage the practice of providing for direct citizen, business, and other government entity access to state information technology resources.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 440, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 313, L. 2001; Sec. 2-17-322, MCA 1999; redes. 2-17-532 by Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 365, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 14, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-533. Responsibilities. (1) The department shall:

(a) establish policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines for the digital access systems;

(b) establish appropriate services to support state agencies' use of the digital access systems; and

(c) develop user-friendly systems for entities regularly interacting with state government, including but not limited to citizens, businesses, and other government entities, and promote the systems' use to reduce costs for state government and as a means to obtain information and services faster and in a more cost-effective manner.

(2) The department shall provide security to protect the integrity of its digital access systems.

(3) Each department is responsible for ensuring the integrity and appropriateness of the information that it places in the digital access systems.

(4) The department shall provide for an equitable method for recovering the cost of operating the digital access systems that the department provides.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 268, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 166, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 440, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 313, L. 2001; Sec. 2-17-323, MCA 1999; redes. 2-17-533 by Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 365, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 15, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Security responsibilities of Department of Administration, 2-17-534.

2-17-534. Security responsibilities of department. The department is responsible for providing centralized management and coordination of state policies for security of data and information technology resources and shall:

(1) establish and maintain the minimum policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines to implement 2-15-114, including the physical security of information technology resources and the state telecommunications network;

(2) establish guidelines to assist agencies in identifying information technology personnel occupying positions of special trust or responsibility or sensitive locations;

(3) establish standards and policies for the exchange of data between any agency information technology resource and any other state agency, private entity, or public entity to ensure that exchanges do not jeopardize data security and confidentiality;

(4) coordinate and provide for a training program regarding security of data and information technology resources to serve governmental technical and managerial needs;

(5) include appropriate security requirements in the specifications for solicitation of state contracts for procuring data and information technology resources; and

(6) on request, provide technical and managerial assistance relating to information technology security.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 592, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 313, L. 2001; Sec. 2-17-503, MCA 1999; redes. 2-17-534 by Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 16, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Department of Administration responsibilities, 2-17-533.

2-17-535 through 2-17-540 reserved.

2-17-541. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 106, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 1983; Sec. 2-17-311, MCA 1999; redes. 2-17-541 by Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-542. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 106, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 228, L. 1983; Sec. 2-17-312, MCA 1999; redes. 2-17-542 by Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001.

2-17-543. 9-1-1 and mutual aid frequency programs — rulemaking authority. (1) The department of justice shall:

(a) coordinate public safety communications on behalf of public and private safety agencies as provided in 2-17-544, 2-17-545, and this section; and

(b) manage the state 9-1-1 program as provided for in Title 10, chapter 4, part 3.

(2) The department of justice may adopt rules to implement the mutual aid frequency manual provided for in 2-17-545.

(3) The department of justice shall obtain input from all public and private safety agency users of mutual aid frequencies for land mobile radio.

(4) As used in 2-17-544 and this section, "public safety agency" and "private safety agency" have the same meanings as provided in 10-4-101.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 228, L. 1983; Sec. 2-17-313, MCA 1999; redes. 2-17-543 by Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 106, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 38, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 38, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

2-17-544. Mutual aid frequency program for land mobile radio. The mutual aid frequency program for land mobile radio is designed to provide public and private safety agencies with a set of land mobile radio frequencies and predetermined operational parameters that serve as a basis for initial, on-scene emergency coordination and the resolution of interoperability issues.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 2015.

2-17-545. Mutual aid frequencies manual — land mobile radio. The department of justice shall develop and maintain a manual that includes policies and procedures for the effective and efficient use of mutual aid frequencies for land mobile radio.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 106, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 38, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 38, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-546. Exemption of criminal justice information network — exception. The provisions of this part do not apply to the criminal justice information network or its successor except for the provisions dealing with the purchase, maintenance, and allocation of telecommunication service delivery. However, the department of justice shall cooperate with the department to coordinate telecommunications services of the state.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 230, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3331; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 313, L. 2001; Sec. 2-17-306, MCA 1999; redes. 2-17-546 by Sec. 44(3), Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 55, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 17, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Criminal justice information network, 44-2-301.

2-17-547 through 2-17-549 reserved.

2-17-550. Short title. Sections 2-17-550 through 2-17-553 may be cited as the "Governmental Internet Information Privacy Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Insurance information and privacy protection act, Title 33, ch. 19, part 1.
Criminal justice information — privacy protection requirements, Title 44, ch. 5.

2-17-551. Definitions. As used in 2-17-550 through 2-17-553, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Collect" means the gathering of personally identifiable information about a user of an internet service, online service, or website by or on behalf of the provider or operator of that service or website by any means, direct or indirect, active or passive, including:

(a) an online request for the information by the provider or operator, regardless of how the information is transmitted to the provider or operator;

(b) the use of an online service to gather the information; or

(c) tracking or use of any identifying code linked to a user of a service or website, including the use of cookies.

(2) "Governmental entity" means the state and political subdivisions of the state.

(3) "Government operator" or "operator" means a governmental entity that operates a website or social media presence or uses any digital means of providing digital services that collects or maintains personal information from or about the users of or visitors to the website or online service or on whose behalf information is collected or maintained.

(4) "Internet" means, collectively, the myriad of computer and telecommunications facilities, including equipment and operating software, that comprise the interconnected worldwide network of networks that use the transmission control protocol/internet protocol or any predecessor or successor protocols to communicate information of all kinds by wire or radio.

(5) "Online" means any activity regulated by 2-17-550 through 2-17-553 that is effected by active or passive use of an internet connection, regardless of the medium by or through which the connection is established.

(6) "Personally identifiable information" means individually identifiable information about an individual collected online, including:

(a) a first and last name;

(b) a residence or other physical address, including a street name and name of a city or town;

(c) an e-mail address;

(d) a telephone number;

(e) a social security number; or

(f) unique identifying information that an internet service provider or a government operator collects and combines with any information described in subsections (6)(a) through (6)(e).

(7) "Political subdivision" means any county, city, municipal corporation, school district, or other political subdivision or public corporation.

(8) "State" means the state of Montana or any office, department, agency, authority, commission, board, institution, hospital, college, university, or other instrumentality of the state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 219, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 18, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-552. Collection of personally identifiable information — requirements. (1) A government operator may not collect personally identifiable information online from a user unless the operator complies with the provisions of this section.

(2) (a) A government operator shall ensure the information delivery system or platform:

(i) identifies who operates the system;

(ii) provides both physical and electronic means for contacting the operator; and

(iii) generally describes the operator's information practices, including policies to protect the privacy of the user and the steps taken to protect the security of the collected information; and

(b) If the department determines that an agency is not in compliance with the state security policies, framework, controls, standards, procedures, and guidelines provided for in 2-17-534, the department may take appropriate action, in its sole discretion, up to and including terminating the information technology resource and requiring the use of an alternative information technology resource.

(3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2)(a), if the personally identifiable information may be used for a purpose other than the express purpose for the collection or may be given or sold to a third party, except as required by law, then the operator shall ensure that the information technology resource includes:

(a) a clear and conspicuous notice to the user that the information collected could be used for other than the purposes of the collection;

(b) a general description of the types of third parties that may obtain the information; and

(c) a clear, conspicuous, and easily understood online procedure requiring an affirmative expression of the user's permission before the information is collected.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 219, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 19, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-553. No change of privacy right or public right to know. Sections 2-17-550 through 2-17-553 are not intended to expand or restrict the individual right of privacy or the public right to know or to change the rights and obligations of persons, state agencies, or local governments that are otherwise provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 219, L. 2001.

2-17-554 through 2-17-559 reserved.

2-17-560. Reappropriation of long-range information technology capital project funds. The remaining balances for long-range information technology capital projects previously approved by the legislature and identified as long-range information technology capital projects in an appropriation act are reappropriated for the purposes of the original appropriation until the projects are completed.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 3, Sp. L. May 2007.

2-17-561. Approval required. Amounts appropriated by the legislature to executive branch agencies, other than the university system, for long-range information technology capital projects may not be encumbered until project and security plans are approved by the chief information officer and the budget director if the legislature directs these approvals as a condition on the appropriations in the bill making the appropriations.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 3, Sp. L. May 2007.

Part 6
Government Competition With Private Internet Providers

2-17-601. Statement of purpose — policy. (1) The legislature recognizes that access to affordable, high-speed internet services is critical to the state's economic future and that the planning, development, and delivery of quality internet services should be a coordinated effort among state government, local governments, and private enterprise.

(2) It is the policy of this state to:

(a) recognize that private sector enterprises engaged in the delivery of internet access and related services should have an opportunity to provide those services without undue interference or competition from the state or its political subdivisions; and

(b) encourage agencies and political subdivisions to publicly announce requirements for internet services and negotiate contracts for internet access with private enterprise to ensure that innovative technology is available to serve the public's needs at the most fair and reasonable cost.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 547, L. 2001.

Cross-References

State electronic access systems, 2-17-532, 2-17-533.

2-17-602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" has the meaning provided for in 2-15-102.

(2) "Internet services provider" means a person or an entity that provides a service, available to the public, that enables the person's or entity's customers to access the internet, purchase internet server or file-hosting services, colocate internet equipment, or use data transmission over the internet for a fee.

(3) "Political subdivision" has the meaning provided for in 2-9-101.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 547, L. 2001.

2-17-603. Government competition with private internet services providers prohibited — exceptions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b), an agency or political subdivision of the state may not directly or through another agency or political subdivision be an internet services provider.

(2) (a) An agency or political subdivision may act as an internet services provider if:

(i) no private internet services provider is available within the jurisdiction served by the agency or political subdivision; or

(ii) the agency or political subdivision provided services prior to July 1, 2001.

(b) An agency or political subdivision may act as an internet services provider when providing advanced services that are not otherwise available from a private internet services provider within the jurisdiction served by the agency or political subdivision.

(c) If a private internet services provider elects to provide internet services in a jurisdiction where an agency or political subdivision is providing internet services, the private internet services provider shall inform the agency or the political subdivision in writing at least 30 days in advance of offering internet services.

(3) Upon receiving notice pursuant to subsection (2)(c), the agency or political subdivision shall notify its subscribers within 30 days of the intent of the private internet services provider to begin providing internet services and may choose to discontinue providing internet services within 180 days of the notice.

(4) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit an agency or political subdivision from:

(a) offering [digital] government services to the general public;

(b) acquiring access to the internet from a private internet services provider in order to offer [digital] government services to the general public; or

(c) providing funding to private broadband service providers for broadband service infrastructure projects; or

(d) providing network infrastructure within the contiguous campus of the agency or political subdivision.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 547, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 401, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 342, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Code Commissioner Correction: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 342, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

The Code Commissioner inserted the bracketed language in (4)(a) and (4)(b) to reflect revisions to terminology contained in Ch. 365, L. 2023, which generally changed the term "electronic government services" to "digital government services".

2-17-604. Alternatives to public internet services providers. An agency or political subdivision is encouraged to publish its requirements for internet services and to use, to the maximum extent possible, private internet services providers to deliver internet services to the public.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 547, L. 2001.

Part 7 reserved

Part 8
Capitol Complex Master Plan Act

2-17-801. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Capitol Complex Master Plan Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 476, L. 1997.

2-17-802. Definitions. As used in part 1 and this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Capitol" means the building dedicated as the Montana state capitol in 1902.

(2) "Capitol complex" means the capitol building and all the state buildings within a 10-mile radius of the capitol building but does not include the Montana wildlife rehabilitation and education center.

(3) "Capitol north circle lot" means the off-street parking lot that begins proximately south of the intersection of north Montana avenue and sixth avenue, extends in an easterly direction to the base of the north main steps of the capitol, and continues in an easterly direction to end proximately south of the intersection of sixth avenue and north Roberts street.

(4) "Capitol south lower lot" means the off-street parking lot located south of Lockey avenue from the capitol, and proximately west of the old board of health building located at 1301 Lockey avenue;

(5) "Capitol south oval lot" means the off-street parking spaces located between Lockey avenue and the south main entrance to the capitol.

(6) "Central utility functions" means utility functions that include but are not limited to:

(a) heating;
(b) ventilation;
(c) air conditioning and climate control systems and components;
(d) plumbing;
(e) access control;
(f) building automation;
(g) building communications; and
(h) the wired core of the building, including electrical, telephone, and network infrastructure.

(7) "Common space" means areas of a building that serve all tenants and occupants on a nonexclusive basis, including the:

(a) building structure, exterior, and grounds;
(b) publicly accessible space;
(c) restrooms;
(d) mechanical rooms;
(e) custodial rooms;
(f) security rooms;
(g) lobbies;
(h) stairwells;
(i) elevators;
(j) interstitial space;
(k) wiring closets;
(l) areas or systems that support the state telecommunications network;
(m) network infrastructure; and
(n) other critical infrastructure and any other similar areas.

(8) "Council" means the capitol complex advisory council established in 2-17-803.

(9) (a) "Executive branch space" means the area designated by 2-17-115 and this section.

(10) "Legislative audit committee" means the legislative audit committee established in 5-13-201.

(11) "Legislative audit division" means the legislative audit division established in 5-13-301.

(12) "Legislative council" means the legislative council established in 5-11-101.

(13) "Legislative finance committee" means the legislative finance committee established in 5-12-201.

(14) "Legislative services division" means the legislative services division established in 5-11-111.

(15) "Legislative space" means the area designated by 2-17-108, 2-17-114, and this section.

(16) "Network infrastructure" means hardware, software, and any associated equipment necessary to enable network connectivity and communications between users, devices, applications, services, and external networks or the internet.

(17) "State telecommunications network" means information technology resources administered by the department for the transmission of voice, video, or electronic data from one device to another.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 762, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 762, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

2-17-803. Capitol complex advisory council established — membership — staff services — compensation. (1) There is a capitol complex advisory council.

(2) The council consists of nine members as follows:

(a) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker on a bipartisan basis;

(b) two members of the senate appointed by the committee on committees on a bipartisan basis;

(c) two public members appointed by the governor; and

(d) the director or the director's designee of each of the following agencies:

(i) the Montana historical society established in 22-3-101;

(ii) the Montana arts council established in 2-15-1513; and

(iii) the department of administration established in 2-15-1001.

(3) The council shall select a presiding officer, who may call meetings to conduct council business. The department of administration shall provide staff services to the council.

(4) (a) A council member appointed under subsection (2)(c) is entitled to compensation not to exceed the daily allowance provided for in 5-2-301(3) for compensation of legislators for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in performing council duties and to travel expense reimbursement as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

(b) A council member designated under subsection (2)(d) is not entitled to compensation for services as a member of the council.

(c) A council member appointed under subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b) is entitled to compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 2013.**

2-17-804. Council duties and responsibilities. (1) The council shall:

(a) adopt an art and memorial plan for the placement of art and memorials in the capitol complex and on the capitol complex grounds;

(b) review proposals for long-term displays of up to 50 years, subject to renewal, in the capitol complex and on the capitol complex grounds and for the naming of state buildings, spaces, and rooms in the capitol complex;

(c) advise the legislature on the placement of busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, or art displays of a long-term nature in public areas of the capitol complex and on the capitol complex grounds, including the executive residence and the original governor's mansion; and

(d) advise the department of administration on interior decoration of the capitol, grounds maintenance, and grounds displays.

(2) In advising the legislature on long-term displays, the council shall consider whether the bust, plaque, statue, memorial, monument, or art display:

(a) reasonably fits the long-range master plan for the capitol and adjacent grounds developed under 2-17-805;

(b) adversely alters the appearance of the capitol complex;

(c) unreasonably affects foot traffic on the capitol complex;

(d) adversely impacts existing maintenance programs or the utility infrastructure;

(e) recognizes a person or event of statewide significance and relevance;

(f) has artistic merit in design and construction;

(g) will be safely and aesthetically suited to the installation site; and

(h) has adequate funding for design, installation, and maintenance.

(3) The council shall report to the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 on requests that the council has reviewed for naming buildings, spaces, and rooms and for placing items in the capitol complex or on the capitol complex grounds. The report must include a recommendation to the committee on whether reviewed requests meet the criteria established by this part and whether legislation is needed. If a request meets the criteria, the council shall recommend a timeframe during which the project should be authorized.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 56, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 321, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

2-17-805. Function of department of administration — long-range master plan — advice of capitol complex advisory council and legislative council. (1) With advice from the council and the legislative council, the department of administration shall establish and maintain a long-range master plan that is updated at a minimum on a decennial basis for the orderly development of the capitol complex. The long-range master plan must be developed and maintained, with consideration given to the following factors:

(a) the needs of the state, including integration of the long-range legislative branch capital development plan, relative to the location and design of buildings to be constructed, purchase of land, parking facilities, traffic management, and landscaping;

(b) the ordinances, plans, requirements, and proposed improvements of the city of Helena and Lewis and Clark County, based, without limitation, upon zoning regulations, population trends, and plans for rapid transit development; and

(c) any other factors that bear upon the orderly, integrated, and cooperative development of the state, the city of Helena, Lewis and Clark County, and state property in the capitol complex.

(2) The Montana historical society shall protect and preserve all publicly held, permanent artwork in the capitol complex and request funding for periodic inspection, maintenance, and repair of the artwork from the trust fund established in 15-35-108 for protection of works of art in the state capitol and other cultural and aesthetic projects.

(3) The legislative council, with consultation of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, shall serve as a long-range building committee to recommend to the legislature and the department of administration construction and remodeling priorities for the legislative space needs.

(4) (a) Prior to September 1 in the year before a regular session of the legislature, the department shall submit an updated long-range master plan, if an updated plan is available, to the legislative council.

(b) The legislative council, with consultation of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, shall preintroduce a joint resolution recommending the legislature's consent, consent with modifications, or nonconsent to the current long-range master plan.

(5) (a) (i) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, the legislative council, with consultation of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, shall develop a long-range legislative branch capital development plan for legislative space.

(ii) The legislative council, with consultation of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, may request appointment of architects and consulting engineers by the department pursuant to 18-2-112 to develop the long-range legislative branch capital development plan.

(iii) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, the department shall provide the legislative council with the necessary personnel and resources to develop and complete the long-range legislative branch capital development plan by September 1, 2024.

(iv) (A) The department shall incorporate the long-range legislative branch capital development plan into the long-range master plan.

(B) The long-range legislative branch capital development plan:

(I) must adhere to the goals and guiding principles of the long-range master plan;

(II) may not impair or divide building infrastructure or systems in buildings or facilities occupied by more than one branch of government;

(III) may not require another branch to move out of already existing space without the department's consent and sufficient appropriations to complete the move and alternative space for the other branch; and

(IV) must comply with all laws, including Title 22, chapter 3, and 18-2-108.

(C) The department shall integrate the long-range legislative branch capital development plan with the provisions of the long-range master plan. The department shall resolve any conflicting provisions and finalize a long-range master plan.

(b) (i) Prior to September 1, 2024, the legislative council, with consultation of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, shall finalize the long-range legislative branch capital development plan.

(ii) The legislative council, with consultation of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, shall preintroduce a joint resolution recommending the legislature's consent to the long-range legislative branch capital development plan.

(6) (a) Before July 1, 2024, the department shall submit a proposal to legislative council to move the legislative audit division out of the capitol into an existing, renovated, or constructed building on the capitol complex. The department proposal to legislative council must conform to space requirements identified by the legislative audit division and must result in space allocation that is equal to or exceeds the existing space occupied in the capitol by the legislative audit division.

(b) (i) The legislative council in consultation with the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee may approve or disapprove the department's proposal pursuant to subsection (6)(a).

(ii) If the legislative council disapproves the department's proposal pursuant to subsection (6)(a), the department shall resubmit a revised proposal to legislative council within 10 days of the legislative council's disapproval of the department's proposal.

(7) The department may develop a plan to transition the secretary of state out of the capitol by January 1, 2031.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 608, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 700, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 7, L. 1993; Sec. 5-17-102, MCA 1991; redes. 5-11-115 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 476, L. 1997; Sec. 5-11-115, MCA 1995; redes. 2-17-805 by Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 56, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 321, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 762, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 762, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

Cross-References

Allocation of office space, 2-17-101.

Custodial care of capitol buildings and grounds, 2-17-811.

2-17-806. Department of administration to establish policies on capitol. The department of administration, with the advice of the council and the legislative council, shall establish policies governing maintenance and beautification of the capitol, executive residence, and original governor's mansion. The policies must provide that all historic furnishings original to the capitol remain in the building if an agency relocates and may designate appropriate wall, floor, and window coverings for the capitol. The Montana Administrative Procedure Act does not apply to this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 762, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 762, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

2-17-807. Approval for displays and naming buildings, spaces, and rooms. (1) A state building, space, or room in the capitol complex may not be named after an individual or a bust, plaque, statue, memorial, monument, or art display may not be displayed on a long-term basis in the capitol complex or on the capitol complex grounds unless the building, space, or room name or display is approved by the legislature and complies with this part. The capitol building, including any future additions and expansions, may not be named after any person, as defined in 2-4-102.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b) through (2)(j), a state building, space, or room in the capitol complex may not be named after an individual or a bust, plaque, statue, memorial, monument, or art display commemorating an individual may not be displayed on a long-term basis in the capitol complex unless the individual has been deceased for at least 10 years.

(b) The statue of Mike and Maureen Mansfield authorized in 2-17-808(1)(d)(iii) and the plaque commemorating President George H. W. Bush authorized in 2-17-808(2)(b)(ii) may continue to be displayed in the capitol complex.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (2)(f), a public building within the capitol complex constructed with private funds after April 17, 2007, or a space or room constructed with private funds after April 17, 2007, in a public building, other than the capitol building, may bear a name designated by the benefactor of the building, space, or room if:

(i) the building, space, or room is to be owned by or used exclusively or primarily by the Montana historical society to store or display artifacts or other property owned by the Montana historical society; and

(ii) the building, space, or room and the designated name are approved by the council and by the board of the historical society, provided for in 2-15-1512.

(d) The classroom building authorized in May 2007 to be built at the Montana law enforcement academy may be named after Karl Ohs, and a plaque and the Lou Peters award commemorating Karl Ohs may be displayed there.

(e) The justice building located at 215 north Sanders in Helena must be named after Joseph P. Mazurek, and a plaque and memorial commemorating him may be displayed on the capitol complex grounds.

(f) The Montana heritage center must be named after Betty Babcock, and a plaque commemorating her must be displayed there.

(g) The statue or bust of Judy Martz authorized in 2-17-808(2)(f) may continue to be displayed in the capitol or on the grounds immediately surrounding the capitol.

(h) The bust commemorating Thomas Carter authorized in 2-17-808(1)(l) may be displayed in the capitol.

(i) A plaque commemorating Charles S. Johnson, Montana's longest-serving statehouse reporter, may be placed in a state capitol complex building or on the grounds of the state capitol complex.

(j) The offices of the secretary of the senate, room 302, must be named the Marilyn Miller senate suite, and a plaque commemorating Marilyn Miller must be displayed there.

(k) The memorial honoring organ donors of Montana authorized in 2-17-808(2) may continue to be displayed on the grounds surrounding the capitol.

(3) A bust, plaque, statue, memorial, monument, or art display commemorating an event, including a military event, may not be displayed on a long-term basis in the capitol complex until 10 years after the end of the event.

(4) All busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, or art displays authorized, but not installed within 5 years of authorization, must be reauthorized.

(5) The department of administration may review and approve the temporary display of a bust, plaque, statue, memorial, monument, or art display for up to 1 year in the capitol complex or on the capitol complex grounds. *(Subsection (2)(g) void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 4, Ch. 164, L. 2019; subsection (2)(h) void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 5, Ch. 637, L. 2023; subsection (2)(i) void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 5, Ch. 737, L. 2023; subsection (2)(k) void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 5, Ch. 211, L. 2023.)*

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 56, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 25, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 221, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 164, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 211, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 637, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 737, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 211, L. 2023, inserted (2)(k) concerning memorial honoring organ donors of Montana. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 336, L. 2023, inserted (2)(j) designating the Marilyn Miller senate suite and requiring display of a commemorative plaque; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 637, L. 2023, inserted (2)(h) concerning commemoration of Thomas Carter; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 737, L. 2023, inserted (2)(i) concerning commemoration of Charles S. Johnson; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Commemoration of Thomas Carter: Section 1, Ch. 637, L. 2023, provided: "(1) Subject to 2-17-807(4) and other provisions of Title 2, chapter 17, part 8, including review by the capitol complex advisory council, a bust or other item of tribute commemorating Thomas Carter, Montana's last territorial congressional delegate, first U.S. House representative, and a U.S. senator, may be placed in a state capitol complex building or on the grounds of the state capitol.

(2) The cost for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of the bust or other item of tribute must be paid from private funds.

(3) There is a special revenue account to the credit of the Montana historical society for the purposes of this section. The Montana historical society shall oversee the procurement and installation of the bust or other item of tribute and administer funds in the account.

(4) The design, installation, maintenance, and funding of the bust or other item of tribute are subject to the provisions of the art and memorial plan adopted by the council pursuant to 2-17-804."

Commemoration of Charles S. Johnson — special revenue account. Section 1, Ch. 737, L. 2023, provided: "(1) Subject to 2-17-807(4) and other provisions of Title 2, chapter 17, part 8, including review by the capitol complex advisory council, a plaque commemorating Charles S. Johnson, Montana's longest-serving statehouse reporter, may be placed in a state capitol complex building or on the grounds of the state capitol.

(2) The cost for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of the plaque must be paid from private funds.

(3) There is a special revenue account to the credit of the Montana historical society for the purposes of this section. The Montana historical society shall oversee the procurement and installation of the plaque and administer funds in the account.

(4) The design, installation, maintenance, and funding of the plaque is subject to the provisions of the art and memorial plan adopted by the council pursuant to 2-17-804."

Contingent Voidness: Section 5, Ch. 211, L. 2023, provided: "If the memorial provided for in [section 1] [2-17-819] is not installed by October 1, 2028, then this act is void."

Section 5, Ch. 637, L. 2023, provided: "If the bust or other item of tribute provided for in [section 1] [not codified] is not installed by July 1, 2028, then [this act] is void."

Section 5, Ch. 737, L. 2023, provided: "If the plaque provided for in [section 1] [not codified] is not installed by July 1, 2028, then [this act] is void."

Commemoration of Judy Martz: Section 1, Ch. 164, L. 2019, provided: "(1) Subject to 2-17-807(4) and other provisions of Title 2, chapter 17, part 8, including review by the capitol complex advisory council, a statue or bust of Judy Martz, Montana's first woman governor, must be displayed inside the capitol or on the capitol square grounds immediately surrounding the capitol.

(2) The cost for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of the statue or bust must be paid from private funds.

(3) The design, installation, maintenance, and funding of the statue or bust is subject to provisions of the art and memorial plan adopted by the council pursuant to 2-17-804."

Contingent Voidness: Section 4, Ch. 164, L. 2019, provided: "If the statue or bust provided for in [section 1] is not installed by October 1, 2024, then [this act] is void." Effective October 1, 2019.

2-17-808. Placement of certain busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays. (1) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, in the capitol:

(a) the busts of Thomas J. Walsh, Burton K. Wheeler, and Joseph Dixon;

(b) the plaques commemorating Theodore Brantley, Fred Whiteside, the first Montana volunteers who fought in the Spanish-American War, the construction of the capitol from 1899 to 1902, the 1972 Montana constitutional convention, and the women legislators' centennial;

(c) the murals by Edgar S. Paxson, Ralph E. DeCamp, Charles M. Russell, Amedee Joullin, and F. Pedretti and sons;

(d) the statues of:

(i) Wilbur Fiske Sanders;

(ii) Jeannette Rankin; and

(iii) Mike and Maureen Mansfield;

(e) the Montana statehood centennial bell;

(f) the gallery of outstanding Montanans;

(g) the Montana constitutional exhibit;

(h) the biographical descriptions of Montana's governors, to be placed near the portraits of the governors;

(i) a plaque commemorating former representative Francis Bardanouve and lettering naming the first floor of the east wing of the capitol in honor of Francis Bardanouve;

(j) a mural honoring the historical contributions of women as community builders;

(k) a plaque commemorating former secretary of the senate Marilyn Miller and lettering naming the offices of the secretary of the senate, room 302 of the capitol, the Marilyn Miller senate suite; and

(l) a bust commemorating Thomas Carter, who served as the last territorial congressional delegate, the first United States representative, and a United States senator for the state.

(2) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the grounds of the capitol:

(a) the statues of Thomas Francis Meagher and Lady Liberty;

(b) the plaques commemorating:

(i) Donald Nutter;

(ii) President George H. W. Bush; and

(iii) American prisoners of war and personnel of the United States armed services missing in action;

(c) two benches with plaques recognizing contributors to the 1997-2000 capitol restoration, repair, and renovation project;

(d) the Montana centennial square;

(e) the monument of the ten commandments;

(f) a statue or bust commemorating Judy Martz, Montana's first woman governor; and

(g) a memorial honoring organ donors of Montana, encouraging individuals to register as donors, and providing a contemplative space to serve as a symbol of hope for those who are waiting for an organ transplant.

(3) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the capitol complex grounds:

(a) the statue by Robert Scriver entitled "symbol of the pros";

(b) the monuments to the liberty bell, the veterans' and pioneer memorial building—landscape beautification project, Montana veterans, Pearl Harbor survivors, and the peace pole;

(c) the sculptures of the herd bull and the eagle;

(d) the plaques commemorating the Montana national guard and Lewis and Clark; and

(e) the arrastra.

(4) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, in state buildings on the capitol complex:

(a) the paintings of Dr. W. F. Cogswell and the paintings entitled "burning bush", "dryland farmer", "farm girl", "the river rat", "top of the world", "angus #68", "the source", "the Bozeman trail", and "the Mullan road";

(b) the art displays known as "Montana workers—mining, ranching, and building", "copper city rodeo", "dancing cascade", "save a piece of the sky", and "night light";

(c) the plaque commemorating Walt Sullivan, the plaque of the Sam W. Mitchell building, and the plaque commemorating the original headquarters of the Montana highway patrol;

(d) the busts of Lee Metcalf and Sam W. Mitchell;

(e) the plaque and Lou Peters award commemorating Karl Ohs;

(f) the plaque and memorial commemorating Joseph P. Mazurek; and

(g) the plaque commemorating Charles S. Johnson.

(5) The senate sculpture depicting the Lewis and Clark expedition is to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the west wall in the senate chambers.

(6) The council shall determine the specific placement of the items identified in subsections (1) through (4). *(Subsection (2)(f) void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 4, Ch. 164, L. 2019; subsection (2)(g) void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 5, Ch. 211, L. 2023; subsection (1)(l) void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 5, Ch. 637, L. 2023; subsection (4)(g) void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 5, Ch. 737, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 56, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 62, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 25, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 223, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 46, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 50, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 279, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 221, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 228, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 164, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 211, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 637, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 737, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 3, Ch. 211, L. 2023, inserted (2)(g) requiring a memorial honoring organ donors; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 336, L. 2023, inserted (1)(k) requiring a plaque commemorating Marilyn Miller; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

Section 3, Ch. 637, L. 2023, inserted (1)(l) requiring a bust commemorating Thomas Carter; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Section 3, Ch. 737, L. 2023, inserted (4)(g) requiring a plaque commemorating Charles S. Johnson; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Commemoration of Thomas Carter: Section 1, Ch. 637, L. 2023, provided: "(1) Subject to 2-17-807(4) and other provisions of Title 2, chapter 17, part 8, including review by the capitol complex advisory council, a bust or other item of tribute commemorating Thomas Carter, Montana's last territorial congressional delegate, first U.S. House representative, and a U.S. senator, may be placed in a state capitol complex building or on the grounds of the state capitol.

(2) The cost for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of the bust or other item of tribute must be paid from private funds.

(3) There is a special revenue account to the credit of the Montana historical society for the purposes of this section. The Montana historical society shall oversee the procurement and installation of the bust or other item of tribute and administer funds in the account.

(4) The design, installation, maintenance, and funding of the bust or other item of tribute are subject to the provisions of the art and memorial plan adopted by the council pursuant to 2-17-804."

Commemoration of Charles S. Johnson — special revenue account. Section 1, Ch. 737, L. 2023, provided: "(1) Subject to 2-17-807(4) and other provisions of Title 2, chapter 17, part 8, including review by the capitol complex advisory council, a plaque commemorating Charles S. Johnson, Montana's longest-serving statehouse reporter, may be placed in a state capitol complex building or on the grounds of the state capitol.

(2) The cost for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of the plaque must be paid from private funds.

(3) There is a special revenue account to the credit of the Montana historical society for the purposes of this section. The Montana historical society shall oversee the procurement and installation of the plaque and administer funds in the account.

(4) The design, installation, maintenance, and funding of the plaque is subject to the provisions of the art and memorial plan adopted by the council pursuant to 2-17-804."

Contingent Voidness: Section 5, Ch. 211, L. 2023, provided: "If the memorial provided for in [section 1] [2-17-819] is not installed by October 1, 2028, then this act is void."

Section 5, Ch. 637, L. 2023, provided: "If the bust or other item of tribute provided for in [section 1] [not codified] is not installed by July 1, 2028, then [this act] is void."

Section 5, Ch. 737, L. 2023, provided: "If the plaque provided for in [section 1] [not codified] is not installed by July 1, 2028, then [this act] is void."

Commemoration of Judy Martz: Section 1, Ch. 164, L. 2019, provided: "(1) Subject to 2-17-807(4) and other provisions of Title 2, chapter 17, part 8, including review by the capitol complex advisory council, a statue or bust of Judy Martz, Montana's first woman governor, must be displayed inside the capitol or on the capitol square grounds immediately surrounding the capitol.

(2) The cost for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of the statue or bust must be paid from private funds.

(3) The design, installation, maintenance, and funding of the statue or bust is subject to provisions of the art and memorial plan adopted by the council pursuant to 2-17-804."

Contingent Voidness: Section 4, Ch. 164, L. 2019, provided: "If the statue or bust provided for in [section 1] is not installed by October 1, 2024, then [this act] is void." Effective October 1, 2019.

2-17-809. Repealed. Secs. 10, 13(1), Ch. 223, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 2003.

2-17-810. Remodeling and renovation — senate chambers and former supreme court chambers to be preserved. (1) If future senate bodies determine that the location of the senate chambers should be moved, the department of administration shall keep and maintain the physical structure and location of the present senate chambers as a single room that must be used for legislative purposes. The room may not be divided in any manner, and the artwork and height of the ceiling must be maintained and preserved.

(2) The department of administration shall keep and maintain the physical structure and location of the supreme court chambers, which were occupied by the Montana supreme court until the new justice building was completed and dedicated in 1983, as a single room that must be used for legislative committee purposes. The room may not be divided in any manner, and the artwork and height of the ceiling must be maintained and preserved.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 700, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 7, L. 1993; Sec. 2-17-109, MCA 1995; redes. 2-17-810 by Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997.

2-17-811. Custodial care of capitol buildings and grounds. (1) The department of administration is custodian of all state property and grounds in the capitol complex.

(2) (a) The department shall supervise and direct the work of caring for and maintaining buildings and equipment in the capitol complex.

(b) The department shall provide or approve all custodial, maintenance, and security work done on state-owned or leased buildings in the capitol complex.

(c) The legislature shall pay the maintenance service fee rate approved by the legislature for:

(i) the legislative space for nonpartisan legislative staff within the capitol; and

(ii) the old board of health building, including common space.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), a state agency may not alter, improve, repair, or remodel a state building in the state capitol area without the approval of the department.

(b) (i) After giving notice to the department, the legislative council may alter, improve, or remodel legislative space that only affects legislative space and that complies with all laws, including Title 22, chapter 3, and 18-2-108.

(ii) (A) The department shall consult the legislative council regarding the department's approval and timing of any alteration, improvement, remodel, or major repair of legislative space.

(B) The department shall notify the legislative council if the department lacks sufficient resources to complete a legislative space project or to satisfy the timing of a project.

(c) (i) Except as provided in subsection (3)(c)(ii), if the department disapproves an alteration, improvement, or remodel of legislative space, the legislative council may override that disapproval and direct the department to proceed with the project.

(ii) A legislative space project may not impair building infrastructure or systems that serve an entire building or facility.

(4) The department shall maintain or approve the maintenance of the grounds in the state capitol area.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 271, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 82-3309, R.C.M. 1947; En. Sec. 10, Ch. 271, L. 1963; Sec. 82-3310, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-3309, 82-3310; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 69, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 625, L. 1991; Sec. 2-17-111, MCA 1995; redes. 2-17-811 by Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 321, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 762, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 762, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

2-17-812. Inventory of improvements. (1) The department of administration shall maintain an inventory of commemorative displays, statues, artwork, plaques, and other improvements upon the grounds of the capitol complex, including the executive residence and the original governor's mansion.

(2) The Montana historical society shall maintain an inventory of all publicly held commemorative displays, statues, artwork, and plaques in the capitol complex.

(3) Each agency shall make the agency's inventory available to the council.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 56, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 321, L. 2005.

2-17-813. Certain items entrusted to Montana historical society. A bust, plaque, statue, memorial, monument, or art display in possession of the state that may have been associated with the capitol complex but is not listed under 2-17-808 is entrusted to the Montana historical society for storage or temporary display until a suitable location is identified, recommended for placement by the council, and approved by the legislature for long-term placement.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 56, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 25, L. 2005.

2-17-814 and 2-17-815 reserved.

2-17-816. Parking citations within capitol complex. The director of the department of administration may enter into an agreement with the city of Helena, Montana, to authorize capitol security guards employed by the department to issue citations for parking violations as defined by state or municipal laws that occur within the boundaries of the capitol complex or on streets or alleys contiguous to the capitol complex. All citations must be considered within the jurisdiction of the city of Helena, Montana, and must be handled in the same manner as citations issued by peace officers of the city.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 1985; Sec. 2-17-113, MCA 1995; redes. 2-17-816 by Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 119, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Disability parking permits, 49-4-301 through 49-4-306.
Power of local authorities to adopt traffic regulations, 61-8-103.
Parking regulations, 61-8-353 through 61-8-357.
Penalty for leaving vehicle on public property, 61-8-719.

2-17-817. Highway patrol officers' memorial. (1) The department of administration shall set aside on the capitol grounds an area on the west side of the capitol for a memorial to Montana's slain highway patrol officers. The area must be agreed upon between the Montana highway patrol and the department of administration and must maintain the historical design integrity of the block on which the capitol is located, also known as capitol square.

(2) The memorial must be constructed to consider long-term maintenance efficiency and must be paid for by private donations. The memorial must be maintained with the assistance of private donations as part of the capitol grounds maintenance program provided in 2-17-811.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 1995; Sec. 2-17-131, MCA 1995; redes. 2-17-817 by Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 321, L. 2005.**

2-17-818. Joseph P. Mazurek building, memorial, and plaque — funding. (1) The justice and state library building located at 215 north Sanders in Helena is named the Joseph P. Mazurek building.

(2) A plaque and memorial commemorating Joseph P. Mazurek may be placed on the capitol complex grounds subject to review by the council according to the criteria in 2-17-804(2).

(3) Private funds must be used to construct the plaque and memorial and to maintain them for 50 years.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 2013.**

2-17-819. *(Temporary)* **Memorial for Montana's organ donors — display — private funding.** (1) Subject to 2-17-807(4) and other provisions of Title 2, chapter 17, part 8, including review by the capitol complex advisory council, a memorial honoring organ donors of Montana must be displayed on the capitol complex grounds.

(2) The cost for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of the memorial must be paid from private funds.

(3) The design, installation, maintenance, and funding of the outdoor memorial is subject to provisions of the art and memorial plan adopted by the council pursuant to 2-17-804. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 5, Ch. 211, L. 2023.)*

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 211, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Contingent Voidness: Section 5, Ch. 211, L. 2023, provided: "If the memorial provided for in [section 1] [2-17-819] is not installed by October 1, 2028, then this act is void."

2-17-820 through 2-17-824 reserved.

2-17-825. Report to legislature. (1) The legislative council may prepare a written report of its activities and recommendations related to its duties under 2-17-805(2) to assist the legislature in determining whether the recommendations should be implemented.

(2) If a report is prepared, it must be submitted to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 700, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 7, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 349, L. 1993; Sec. 5-17-103, MCA 1991; redes. 5-11-116 by Code Commissioner, 1993; Sec. 5-11-116, MCA 1995; redes. 2-17-825 by Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

Parts 9 and 10 reserved

Part 11
Montana Digital Government Services Act

2-17-1101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Digital Government Services Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 365, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 20, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

State electronic access systems, 2-17-532, 2-17-533.

Government competition with private Internet providers, Title 2, ch. 17, part 6.

2-17-1102. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Convenience fee" means a fee charged to recover the costs of providing digital government services.

(2) "Costs" means the overall costs that the department may incur to provide digital government services, including the costs of contracts entered into with private entities to assist in providing digital government services.

(3) "Department" means the department of administration provided for in 2-15-1001.

(4) "Infrastructure" means the underlying technology necessary to provide digital government services.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 265, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 21, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-1103. Responsibilities of department for digital government. (1) The department shall:

(a) provide the ability for state agencies to offer digital government services by providing a reasonable and secure infrastructure;

(b) provide a point of entry for digital government services to achieve a single face of government;

(c) encourage a common look and feel for all digital government services for the benefit of the customers of the services;

(d) set technological standards for digital government services;

(e) use technology that enables the greatest number of customers to obtain access to digital government services;

(f) promote the benefits of digital government services through educational, marketing, and outreach initiatives;

(g) promote transparency in information management; and

(h) share and coordinate information with political subdivisions whenever possible.

(2) To fulfill the responsibilities in subsection (1), the department may contract with private entities. The department may charge convenience fees and may allow private entities to collect the convenience fees on selected digital government services in order to provide funding for the support and furtherance of digital government services.

(3) The department or a private entity under a contract as provided in subsection (2) may not use any data associated with providing digital government services for any purpose that is not provided for by law.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 265, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 274, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 22, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-17-1104. Rulemaking. The department may adopt rules to implement this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 265, L. 2001.

2-17-1105. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 265, L. 2001.

Part 12
State Building Construction Loan Act

2-17-1201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "State Building Construction Loan Act of 2021".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 2021.

2-17-1202. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Building" has the meaning given in 18-2-101.

(2) "Financial institution" means a bank as defined in 32-1-102 or other regulated lender as defined in 31-1-111(1) and (2).

(3) "Physical branch" means a physical location of a financial institution that accepts deposits from Montana citizens and businesses.

(4) "Public agency" means a department, commission, council, board, bureau, committee, institution, agency, government corporation, or other entity, instrumentality, or official of the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of this state, including the board of regents and the Montana university system.

(5) (a) "State building construction loan" means a loan from a financial institution to a public agency to finance construction of one or more buildings of the public agency, obtained pursuant to the terms and conditions of this part.

(b) The term does not include any bonds, notes or other obligations issued by public agencies, or loans obtained by public agencies, to finance construction of buildings or otherwise, that are sold or obtained pursuant to other provisions of state law.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 333, L. 2021.**

2-17-1203. Authority to use state building construction loans. (1) If a public agency is otherwise authorized to borrow money by obtaining a loan to finance the construction of one or more of its buildings, the public agency may obtain a state building construction loan in accordance with this part to finance all or a portion of the costs of the construction of one or more of its buildings.

(2) A public agency must obtain a state building construction loan by requesting interest rate proposals from multiple financial institutions that will not be acting as underwriters with respect to the state building construction loan.

(3) In the materials that solicit interest rate proposals for the state building construction loan, the public agency shall provide that it will evaluate the proposals based solely on interest rate and the solicitation materials must describe the provisions of 2-17-1204.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 333, L. 2021.**

2-17-1204. Selecting lender for state building construction loan — process. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), when selecting a financial institution to be the lender for a state building construction loan, a public agency shall select the financial institution that is the lowest responsible bidder in terms of interest rate, without regard to residency.

(2) In the event the lowest bidder does not have a physical branch located in the state, the public agency shall:

(a) determine if the next lowest bidder has a physical branch located in the state; and

(b) if, when multiplying the low bid by 1.025, the next lowest bid is at or less than the bid of the lowest bidder, notify the next lowest bidder and give that bidder 2 business days to offer a bid of equal terms.

(3) If the next lowest bidder offers an equal bid, the public agency shall select that bidder as the lender of its state building construction loan.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 333, L. 2021.**

CHAPTER 18

STATE EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION, COMPENSATION, AND BENEFITS

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2-18-1304. Statewide employee welfare benefit plan established — health care expense trust accounts — investment of funds — account access — administrative expenses.
2-18-1305. Rulemaking authority.
2-18-1306 through 2-18-1308 reserved.
2-18-1309. Administration of plan — content of plan document.
2-18-1310. Plan membership election — contract for employer participation.
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Chapter Cross-References

Pension systems, Title 19.
Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.
Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.

Part 1
General Provisions

2-18-101. Definitions. As used in parts 1 through 3 and part 10 of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" means a department, board, commission, office, bureau, institution, or unit of state government recognized in the state budget.

(2) "Base salary" means the base hourly pay rate annualized paid to an employee, excluding overtime and longevity.

(3) "Benchmark" means a representative position in a specific occupation that is used to illustrate the application of the job evaluation factor used to classify the occupation.

(4) "Blue-collar pay plan" means a strictly negotiated classification and pay plan consisting of unskilled or skilled labor, trades, and crafts occupations.

(5) "Board" means the board of personnel appeals established in 2-15-1705.

(6) "Broadband classification plan" means a job evaluation method that measures the difficulty of the work and the knowledge or skills required to perform the work.

(7) "Broadband pay plan" means a pay plan using a pay hierarchy of broad pay bands based on a classification plan, including market midpoint and occupational wage ranges.

(8) "Compensation" means the annual or hourly wage or salary and includes the longevity allowance provided in 2-18-304 and leave and holiday benefits provided in part 6 of this chapter.

(9) "Competencies" means sets of measurable and observable knowledge, skills, and behaviors that contribute to success in a position.

(10) "Department" means the department of administration created in 2-15-1001.

(11) (a) Except in 2-18-306, "employee" means any state employee other than an employee excepted under 2-18-103 or 2-18-104.

(b) The term does not include a student intern.

(12) "Job evaluation factor" means a measure of the complexities of the predominant duties of a position.

(13) "Job sharing" means the sharing by two or more persons of a position.

(14) "Market midpoint" means the median base salary that other employers pay to employees in comparable occupations as determined by the department's salary survey of the relevant labor market.

(15) "Occupation" means a generalized family of positions having substantially similar duties and requiring similar qualifications, education, and experience.

(16) "Occupational wage range" means a range of pay, including a minimum, market midpoint, and maximum salary, for a specific occupation that is most consistent with the pay being offered by competing employers for fully competent employees within that occupation. The salary for an employee may be less than the minimum salary.

(17) "Pay band" means a wide salary range covering a number of different occupations. Pay bands are used for reporting and analysis purposes only.

(18) "Pay progression" means a process by which an employee's compensation may be increased, based on documented factors determined by the department, to bring the employee's compensation to a higher rate within the occupational wage range of the employee.

(19) "Permanent employee" means an employee who is designated by an agency as permanent, who was hired through a competitive selection process unless excepted from the competitive process by law, and who has attained or is eligible to attain permanent status.

(20) "Permanent status" means the state an employee attains after satisfactorily completing an appropriate probationary period.

(21) "Personal staff" means those positions occupied by employees appointed by the elected officials enumerated in Article VI, section 1, of the Montana constitution or by the public service commission as a whole, by each director appointed by the governor as provided in 2-15-111(1), or by each division administrator, or equivalent, appointed by the elected officials enumerated in Article VI, section 1, of the Montana constitution.

(22) "Position" means a collection of duties and responsibilities currently assigned or delegated by competent authority, requiring the full-time, part-time, or intermittent employment of one person.

(23) "Program" means a combination of planned efforts to provide a service.

(24) "Seasonal employee" means a permanent employee who is designated by an agency as seasonal, who performs duties interrupted by the seasons, and who may be recalled without the loss of rights or benefits accrued during the preceding season.

(25) "Short-term worker" means a person who:

(a) may be hired by an agency without using a competitive hiring process for an hourly wage established by the agency;

(b) may not work for the agency for more than 90 days in a continuous 12-month period;

(c) is not eligible for permanent status;

(d) may not be hired into a permanent position by the agency without a competitive selection process;

(e) is not eligible to earn the leave and holiday benefits provided in part 6 of this chapter; and

(f) may be discharged without cause.

(26) "Student intern" means a person who:

(a) has been accepted in or is currently enrolled in an accredited school, college, or university and may be hired by an agency in a student intern position without using a competitive selection process;

(b) is not eligible for permanent status;

(c) is not eligible to become a permanent employee without a competitive selection process;

(d) must be covered by the hiring agency's workers' compensation insurance;

(e) is not eligible to earn the leave and holiday benefits provided for in part 6 of this chapter; and

(f) may be discharged without cause.

(27) (a) "Telework" means a flexible work arrangement in which a designated employee may work from:

(i) home within the state of Montana or an alternative worksite within the state of Montana 1 or more days a week instead of physically traveling to a central workplace; or

(ii) an alternative worksite outside the state of Montana limited to:

(A) employees who are mental health professionals as defined in 27-1-1101 involved in psychological or psychiatric evaluations and treatment;

(B) employees engaged in providing services related to information technology resources as defined in 2-17-506;

(C) employees who are medical professionals involved in medical evaluations and treatment; or

(D) employees who are engaged in providing services related to economic development outside the state and whose work duties require the employees to reside out of state.

(b) The office of budget and program planning must approve a designated employee's alternative worksite outside the state of Montana before the employee begins work.

(28) "Temporary employee" means an employee who:

(a) is designated as temporary by an agency for a definite period of time not to exceed 12 months;

(b) performs duties on a temporary basis;

(c) is not eligible for permanent status;

(d) is terminated at the end of the employment period; and

(e) is not eligible to become a permanent employee without a competitive selection process.

History: Ap.p. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 1977; Sec. 59-903, R.C.M. 1947; Ap.p. Sec. 1, Ch. 563, L. 1977; Sec. 59-915, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-903(1), (2), (part(3)), (4), (5), 59-915; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 512, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 684, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 56, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 75, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 175, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 430, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 456, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 563, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 365, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 683, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 23, Ch. 365, L. 2023, in definition of telework in (a)(ii)(B) after "information technology" inserted "resources"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 683, L. 2023, in definition of personal staff at end inserted "by each director appointed by the governor as provided in 2-15-111(1), or by each division administrator, or equivalent, appointed by the elected officials enumerated in Article VI, section 1, of the Montana constitution". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-18-102. Personnel administration — general policy setting — oversight. (1) Except as otherwise provided by law or collective bargaining agreement, the department shall:

(a) exercise leadership in the development of effective personnel administration within the several agencies in the state and make available the facilities of the department to this end;

(b) foster and develop programs for recruitment and selection of capable persons for employment and for the improvement of employee effectiveness, including training, ethical conduct, safety, health, counseling, welfare, discipline, grievances, and evaluation for productivity and retention in permanent status;

(c) foster, develop, and promote job sharing in agencies;

(d) investigate from time to time the operation and effect of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter and the policies made under those parts and report the findings and recommendations to the governor;

(e) establish policies, procedures, and forms for the maintenance of records of all employees in the state service;

(f) apply and carry out parts 1 through 3 and the policies under those parts and perform any other lawful acts that may be necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes and provisions of parts 1 through 3.

(2) The department may delegate authority granted to it under parts 1 through 3 to agencies in the state service that effectively demonstrate the ability to carry out the provisions of parts 1 through 3, provided that the agencies remain in compliance with policies, procedures, timetables, and standards established by the department.

(3) The department shall develop and issue personnel policies for the state and shall adopt policies or rules to implement this part, except 2-18-111. Adequate public notice must be given to all interested parties of proposed changes or additions to the personnel policies before the date on which they are to take effect. If requested by any of the affected parties, the department shall schedule a public hearing on proposed changes or additions to the personnel policies before the date on which they are to take effect.

(4) The department shall develop model rules of conduct for all state employees based upon the provisions of Title 2, chapter 2. The department shall provide employees with a pamphlet summarizing the provisions of Title 2, chapter 2. Each state agency shall adopt the model rules of conduct and additional rules appropriate to the specific circumstances of the agency.

(5) Except as otherwise provided by law, the office of budget and program planning shall:

(a) approve any salary increase proposed by an agency that exceeds an employee's occupational wage range prior to the increase going into effect;

(b) monitor the way each agency compensates its employees within the parameters of the occupational wage range for each occupation; and

(c) provide a report in an electronic format to the legislative finance committee identifying any agency that provides a base salary for an employee that exceeds the occupational wage range for the employee's occupation and the reasons for the differences.

(6) The provisions of subsection (5)(a) do not apply to employees of the following agencies:

(a) the department of justice;

(b) the office of public instruction;

(c) the public service commission;

(d) the secretary of state; and

(e) the state auditor's office.

(7) The agencies listed in subsection (6) shall provide required budget information on personal services, and pay increases above the occupational wage range for these agencies are not required to be included in the executive budget in accordance with Title 17, chapter 7, part 1.

(8) The department of administration shall adopt rules and procedures for job classification.

(9) An agency may not change the classification of an occupation or its related job evaluation factors until the agency submits the proposed changes to and receives approval from the department of administration.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 440, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-913; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 568, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 684, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 562, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 430, L. 2017.

2-18-103. Officers and employees excepted. Parts 1 through 3 and 10 do not apply to the following officers and employees in state government:

(1) elected officials;

(2) county assessors and their chief deputies;

(3) employees of the office of consumer counsel;

(4) judges and employees of the judicial branch;

(5) members of boards and commissions appointed by the governor, the legislature, or other elected state officials;

(6) officers or members of the militia;

(7) agency heads appointed by the governor;

(8) academic and professional administrative personnel with individual contracts under the authority of the board of regents of higher education;

(9) academic and professional administrative personnel and live-in houseparents who have entered into individual contracts with the state school for the deaf and blind under the authority of the state board of public education;

(10) investment officer, assistant investment officer, executive director, and eight professional staff positions of the board of investments;

(11) four professional staff positions under the board of oil and gas conservation;

(12) director of the Montana state lottery and assistant director for security of the Montana state lottery;

(13) executive director and employees of the state compensation insurance fund;

(14) state racing stewards employed by the executive secretary of the Montana board of horseracing;

(15) executive director of the Montana wheat and barley committee;

(16) commissioner of banking and financial institutions;

(17) training coordinator for county attorneys;

(18) employees of an entity of the legislative branch consolidated, as provided in 5-2-504;

(19) chief information officer in the department of administration;

(20) chief economic development officer and six professional staff positions in the office of economic development provided for in 2-15-218; and

(21) the director of the office of state public defender provided for in 2-15-1029.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 488, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 565, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-904; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 365, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 512, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 161, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 581, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 316, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 507, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 395, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 630, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 545, L. 1995;

amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 549, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 358, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 450, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 100, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 100, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Cross-References

Salaries of Supreme Court Justices, 2-16-403.
Salaries of certain elected state officials, 2-16-405.
Salaries of District Court Judges, 3-5-211.
Compensation of legislators, 5-2-301.
Legislative classification and pay plan, 5-11-105.

2-18-104. Exemption for personal staff — limit. (1) Subject to the limitations in subsections (2) and (3), members of a personal staff are exempt from parts 1 through 3 and 10.

(2) The personal staff who are exempted by subsection (1) may not exceed 10 unless otherwise approved by the department according to criteria developed by the department. Except as provided in subsection (5)(a), under no circumstances may the total exemptions of each elected official exceed 15.

(3) The number of members of the personal staff of the public service commission who are exempted by subsection (1) may not exceed 6.

(4) The number of members of the personal staff of the leadership of the legislature who are exempted by subsection (1) may not exceed:

(a) one personal staff for the speaker of the house of representatives;
(b) one personal staff for the minority leader of the house of representatives;
(c) one personal staff for the president of the senate; and
(d) one personal staff for the minority leader of the senate.

(5) (a) The number of members of the personal staff to be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the agency head and be exempted by subsection (1) may not exceed the following:

(i) two personal staff for the following departments:
(A) administration;
(B) agriculture;
(C) commerce; and
(D) military affairs; and
(ii) three personal staff for the following departments:
(A) corrections;
(B) environmental quality;
(C) fish, wildlife, and parks;
(D) labor and industry;
(E) natural resources and conservation;
(F) public health and human services;
(G) revenue; and
(H) transportation; and
(iii) for an agency with an elected official listed in Article VI, section 1, of the Montana constitution, a number of personal staff in excess of the limitations in subsection (2) but not to exceed 3% of the agency's full-time employees.

(b) When appointing personal staff under subsection (5)(a), only an existing full-time equivalent personnel position may be used. Agencies may not create a new full-time equivalent personnel position when appointing personal staff.

(c) For the purposes of subsection (5)(a)(iii), the number of full-time employees is determined pursuant to 2-18-204 and is within an agency's base budget as defined in 17-7-102.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-903(part (3)); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 538, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 661, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 523, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 683, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 683, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

2-18-105. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 239, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 440, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-914.

2-18-106. No limitation on legislative authority — transfer of funds. (1) Parts 1 through 3 do not limit the authority of the legislature relative to appropriations for salary and wages. The budget director shall adjust determinations in accordance with legislative appropriations.

(2) Unexpended agency appropriation balances in the first year of the biennium may be transferred to the second year of the biennium to offset the costs of pay increases.

History: (1)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 181, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-912; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 678, L. 1979; (2)En. Sec. 10, Ch. 421, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 120, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-18-107. Job-sharing positions — benefits. (1) Job sharing may be used, to the extent practicable, by each agency as a means of promoting increased productivity and employment opportunities. Job sharing may be actively pursued to fill vacated or new positions but may not be actively pursued to replace current full-time employees. However, on request of a current employee, that employee's position may be considered for job sharing. A position may be filled by more than one incumbent currently in a full-time position.

(2) Employees in a job-sharing status are entitled to holiday pay, annual leave, sick leave, and health benefits on the same basis as permanent part-time employees provided for in 2-18-603, 2-18-611, 2-18-618, and 2-18-703.

(3) Employees classified in a part-time status may not be reclassified to a job-sharing status while employed in the position classified as part-time.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 684, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 121, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Administration of leave rules, 2-18-604.
Annual leave, 2-18-611.
Sick leave — death benefit payout, 2-18-618.
Group insurance for public employees, 2-18-702.

2-18-108 and 2-18-109 reserved.

2-18-110. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 7, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 720, L. 1991.

2-18-111. Hiring preference for residents of Indian reservations for state jobs within reservation — rules. (1) A state agency that operates within an Indian reservation shall give a preference in hiring for employment with the state agency to an Indian resident of the reservation who has substantially equal qualifications for the position.

(2) The commissioner of labor and industry shall enforce this section and investigate complaints of its violation and may adopt rules to implement this section.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Employment" means being employed as a permanent, temporary, or seasonal employee as defined in 2-18-101 for a state position. The term does not include:

(i) a state elected official;

(ii) appointment by an elected official to a body, such as a board, commission, committee, or council;

(iii) appointment by an elected official to a public office if the appointment is provided for by law;

(iv) engagement as an independent contractor or employment by an independent contractor; or

(v) engagement as a student intern.

(b) "Indian" means a person who is enrolled or who is a lineal descendant of a person enrolled upon an enrollment listing of the bureau of Indian affairs or upon the enrollment listing of a recognized Indian tribe, domiciled in the United States.

(c) "State agency" means a department, office, board, bureau, commission, agency, or other instrumentality of the executive or judicial branches of the government of this state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 2005.

2-18-112 through 2-18-114 reserved.

2-18-115. Exemption for certain university temporary employees — "temporary employee" defined. (1) With the exception of 2-18-603, the requirements of parts 6 and 7 of this chapter do not apply to a temporary employee of the university system.

(2) As used in this section, "temporary employee" means an employee of the university system who is hired into a position that is not permanent and who has negotiated an alternative benefits package through a labor organization certified to represent employees of the university system pursuant to Title 39, chapter 31. The employer contribution to the alternative benefits package may not exceed the cost of the benefits that the employee would otherwise be entitled to through employment.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1995.**

2-18-116 through 2-18-119 reserved.

2-18-120. Telework authorized and encouraged. (1) An agency may authorize telework for specified employees when it is in the state's best interest as determined and documented by the agency.

(2) The department shall adopt policies to encourage agencies to authorize telework and to provide for the uniform implementation of this section by agencies.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 2005.**

Part 2
Classification

2-18-201. Implementation and maintenance of broadband classification plan. (1) The department shall implement and maintain a broadband classification plan for all state positions in state service except those exempt in 2-18-103 and 2-18-104.

(2) The legislative council shall in a like manner implement and maintain a broadband classification plan for employees of the legislative branch, other than those of the office of consumer counsel.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 440, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-905; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 512, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 81, L. 2007.**

2-18-202. Identification of occupations. In providing for the broadband classification plan, the department shall group all positions in state service into defined occupations based on similarity of work performed, responsibilities assumed, difficulty of work, required knowledge, and required skills.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 440, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-906; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 7, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Classification — grievance, 2-18-1011 through 2-18-1013.

2-18-203. Review of positions. (1) The department shall review the job evaluation factor of positions on a regular basis and may adjust the occupations for the positions to reflect significant changes in duties and responsibilities. If adjustments are to be made to benchmarks or criteria used for classifying positions affecting employees within a bargaining unit, the department shall consult with the representative of the bargaining unit prior to implementation of the adjustments, except for positions factored in the blue-collar pay plan, which must remain a mandatory negotiable item under Title 39, chapter 31.

(2) Employees and employee organizations must be given the opportunity to appeal a position classification. Classification standards are not appealable subjects under 2-18-1011 through 2-18-1013.

(3) The period of time for which retroactive pay for a compensation or classification appeal may be awarded under 2-18-1011 through 2-18-1013 or under parts 1 through 3 of this chapter may not extend beyond 30 days prior to the date on which the appeal was filed.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 471, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 577, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 421, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 430, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

Grievance regarding classification, 2-18-1011.

2-18-204. Determination of number and occupations of employees in each agency. (1) The department shall determine the occupations for positions of employees in each agency. At any time, upon request of an agency, the department may amend the list of occupations for the requesting agency.

(2) Based on documentation to be submitted by each agency, the budget director shall determine the number of positions and employees (full-time equivalents) of each agency or program prior to preparation of the executive budget and before the beginning of each fiscal year. At any time, upon the request of the agency, the budget director may amend the number of positions or employees (full-time equivalents) in any agency or program.

(3) This section does not limit legislative authority to amend the determinations of the department or the budget director.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-909; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 81, L. 2007.**

2-18-205. Repealed. Sec. 23, Ch. 81, L. 2007.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 181, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 468, L. 1979.**

2-18-206. List of positions maintained. To facilitate state budgeting and as directed by the budget director, each agency shall maintain a list of current authorized positions, the number of positions in each occupation, and the salaries or wages being paid, appropriated, or proposed for each position.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-908; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 81, L. 2007.**

2-18-207. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 7, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 181, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-910; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 468, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2007.**

2-18-208. Comparable worth. The department of administration shall, in its continuous efforts to enhance the current classification plan and pay schedules, work toward the goal of establishing a standard of equal pay for comparable worth. This standard for the classification plan shall be reached by:

(1) eliminating, in the classification of positions, the use of judgments and factors that contain inherent biases based on sex, as defined in 1-1-201; and

(2) comparing, in the classification of positions, the factors for determining job worth across occupational groups whenever those groups are dominated by males or females.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 685, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Human Rights Act, Title 49, ch. 2.

2-18-209. Periodic evaluation. The department of administration shall periodically evaluate the extent to which Montana's classification plan, pay schedules, and statutes adhere to or fall short of the standard of equal pay for comparable worth. The department may make recommendations to the legislature regarding impediments to meeting this standard.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 349, L. 1993.**

Part 3
Compensation Determination

Part Cross-References

Salaries of certain elected state officials, 2-16-405.

2-18-301. Intent of part — rules. (1) It is the intent of the legislature that compensation plans for state employees, excluding those employees excepted under 2-18-103 or 2-18-104, be based, in part, on an analysis of the labor markets as provided by the department in a biennial salary survey. The salary survey must be submitted to the office of budget and program planning as a part of the information required by 17-7-111.

(2) Pay adjustments, if any, provided for in 2-18-303 supersede any other plan or systems established through collective bargaining after the adjournment of the legislature.

(3) Total funds required to implement the pay increases, if any, provided for in 2-18-303 for any employee group or bargaining unit may not be increased through collective bargaining over the amount appropriated by the legislature.

(4) When fiscally able, the department shall administer the pay program established by the legislature on the basis of competency, competitiveness to the external labor market, pay progression, and other nondiscriminatory factors, while considering pay relationships within an agency or pay unit.

(5) The broadband pay plan must consist of nine pay bands including occupational wage ranges based on an occupation and its job evaluation factor. Each occupational wage range must contain a salary range with a minimum, a market midpoint, and a maximum salary. The salary for an employee may be less than the minimum salary.

(6) Based on the biennial salary survey, the department shall:

(a) identify current market midpoints for all occupations; and

(b) establish the occupational wage range for each occupation.

(7) The department may promulgate rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this part, collective bargaining statutes, or negotiated contracts to carry out the purposes of this part.

(8) Nothing in this part prohibits the board of regents from engaging in negotiations with the collective bargaining units representing the classified staff of the university system.

History: En. 59-922 by Sec. 8, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-922; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 421, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 740, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 661, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 640, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 552, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 7, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 385, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 438, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 430, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Compensation complaint, 2-18-1011.
Collective bargaining for public employees, Title 39, ch. 31.

2-18-302. Salary schedules maintained by department. The department shall maintain a schedule of all salaries paid to personnel of civil executive state offices and shall only approve payroll claims agreeing with that schedule. All changes in personnel or salary status shall be authorized as provided by law, and the department shall alter the schedule accordingly when notified by the authorizing agency. However, no changes in personnel or salary status may be authorized that will cause an agency to exceed its appropriation or that will result in a deficiency or supplemental appropriation request to the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 97, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82-109.4.

2-18-303. Procedures for administering broadband pay plan. (1) On the first day of the first complete pay period in fiscal year 2024, each employee is entitled to the amount of the employee's base salary as it was on June 30, 2023.

(2) To the extent that the plan applies to employees within a collective bargaining unit, the implementation of the plan is a negotiable subject under 39-31-305.

(3) Effective on the first day of the first complete pay period that includes July 1, 2023, the base salary of each employee must be increased by $1.50 an hour or by 4%, whichever is greater. Effective on the first day of the first complete pay period that includes July 1, 2024, the base salary of each employee must be increased by $1.50 an hour or by 4%, whichever is greater. All full-time employees must receive a one-time, lump-sum payment of $1,040 in the first full pay period after April 11, 2023. All employees who are regularly scheduled to work 20 hours or more a week but less than 40 hours a week must receive a one-time, lump-sum payment of $780 in the first full pay period after April 11, 2023. All employees who are regularly scheduled to work less than 20 hours a week must receive a one-time, lump-sum payment of $520 in the first full pay period after April 11, 2023. These payments are applicable for fiscal year 2023 only.

(4) (a) (i) A member of a bargaining unit may not receive the pay adjustment provided for in subsection (3) until the employer's collective bargaining representative receives written notice that the employee's collective bargaining unit has ratified a collective bargaining agreement.

(ii) If ratification of a collective bargaining agreement, as required by subsection (4)(a)(i), is not completed by the date on which a legislatively authorized pay increase is implemented, members of the bargaining unit must continue to receive the compensation that they were receiving until an agreement is ratified.

(b) Methods of administration consistent with the purpose of this part and necessary to properly implement the pay adjustments provided for in this section may be provided for in collective bargaining agreements.

(5) (a) Montana highway patrol officer base salaries must be established through the broadband pay plan. Before January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the department shall, after seeking the advice of the Montana highway patrol, conduct a salary survey to be used in establishing the base salary for existing and entry-level highway patrol officer positions. The county sheriff's offices and the city police departments located within the county seats of the following consolidated governments and counties are the labor market for purposes of the survey: Butte-Silver Bow, Cascade, Yellowstone, Missoula, Lewis and Clark, Gallatin, Flathead, and Dawson. The base salary for existing and entry-level highway patrol officer positions must then be determined by the department of justice, using the results of the salary survey and the department of justice pay plan guidelines. Base or biennial salary increases under this subsection are exclusive of and not in addition to any increases otherwise awarded to other state employees after July 1, 2006.

(b) To the extent that the plan applies to employees within a collective bargaining unit, the implementation of the plan is a negotiable subject under 39-31-305.

(c) The department of justice shall submit the salary survey to the office of budget and program planning as a part of the information required by 17-7-111.

(d) The salary survey and plan must be completed at least 6 months before the start of each regular legislative session.

History: **En. 59-916 by Sec. 2, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-916; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 421, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 740, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 621, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 661, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 640, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 553, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 6, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 36, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 1, 7, Ch. 421, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 7, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 385, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 438, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 430, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 424, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 87, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 87, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 11, 2023.

Cross-References

Compensation grievance, 2-18-1011.

2-18-304. Longevity allowance. (1) (a) In addition to the compensation provided for in 2-18-303, each employee who has completed 5 years of uninterrupted state service must receive 1.5% of the employee's base salary multiplied by the number of completed, contiguous 5-year periods of uninterrupted state service.

(b) In addition to the longevity allowance provided under subsection (1)(a), each employee who has completed 10 years of uninterrupted state service, 15 years of uninterrupted state service, 20 years of uninterrupted state service, or 25 years of uninterrupted state service must receive an additional 0.5% of the employee's base salary for each of those additional 5 years of uninterrupted service.

(c) Service to the state is not interrupted by authorized leaves of absence.

(2) (a) For the purpose of determining years of service under this section, an employee must be credited with 1 year of service for each period of:

(i) 2,080 hours of service following the employee's date of employment; an employee must be credited with 80 hours of service for each biweekly pay period in which the employee is in a pay status or on an authorized leave of absence without pay, regardless of the number of hours of service in the pay period; or

(ii) 12 uninterrupted calendar months following the employee's date of employment in which the employee was in a pay status or on an authorized leave of absence without pay, regardless of the number of hours of service in any month. An employee of a school at a state institution or the university system must be credited with 1 year of service if the employee is employed for an entire academic year.

(b) State agencies, other than the university system and a school at a state institution, shall use the method provided in subsection (2)(a)(i) to calculate years of service under this section.

(3) For the purposes of calculating longevity, employment as a short-term worker does not apply toward years of service.

History: En. 59-920 by Sec. 6, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-920; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 593, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 661, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 6, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 2021.

2-18-305. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 455, L. 1995.

History: En. 59-919 by Sec. 5, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-919; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 661, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 640, L. 1993.

2-18-306. Determination of weekly or hourly pay rate. When the monthly or annual salary rate payable to an officer or employee of the state has been set by law or otherwise, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the weekly or hourly rate of pay shall be determined by dividing the annual salary by 52 weeks or 2,080 hours.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 95, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 25-507.9.

2-18-307. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 678, L. 1979.

History: En. 59-921 by Sec. 7, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-921.

2-18-308 through 2-18-310 reserved.

2-18-311. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 661, L. 1987.

History: En. 59-917 by Sec. 3, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-917; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 421, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 740, L. 1985.

2-18-312. Repealed. Sec. 23, Ch. 81, L. 2007.

History: En. 59-918 by Sec. 4, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-918; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 421, L. 1981 (Executive Order No. 7-81); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 740, L. 1985; rep. Sec. 12, Ch. 6, Sp. L. June 1986; re-en. Sec. 11, Ch. 6, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 661, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 640, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 553, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 552, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 6, L. 2005.

2-18-313. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 6, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 421, L. 1981 (Executive Order No. 7-81); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 740, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 621, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 640, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 553, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 552, L. 2003.

2-18-314. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997; sec. 18, Ch. 417, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 421, L. 1981 (Executive Order No. 7-81); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 740, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 661, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 640, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 455, L. 1995.

2-18-315. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 6, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 421, L. 1981 (Executive Order No. 7-81); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 740, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 661, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 640, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 553, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 552, L. 2003.

2-18-316 through 2-18-318 reserved.

2-18-319. Terminated. Sec. 5, Ch. 49, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 49, L. 1995.

2-18-320. Terminated. Sec. 5, Ch. 49, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 49, L. 1995.

Part 4
Payroll Systems

2-18-401. Central payroll system — department to provide for inclusion of agencies. The department of administration shall install and operate a uniform state central payroll system for all state agencies, including units of the Montana university system. The department may provide for the orderly inclusion of state agencies into the system and may make exceptions from the operation of the system for periods that it determines necessary. The department shall adopt rules to implement the state central payroll system.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 25-507.1(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 592, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 84, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 308, L. 1995.

2-18-402. Payroll custodial fund — department to determine disbursements and transfers. (1) A fund in the custodial fund type of the state treasury is created, to be known as the state payroll custodial fund. The fund may be utilized for the payment of compensation to officers and employees of the state and all amounts withheld from compensation, pursuant to law.

(2) The amount to be disbursed from the state payroll custodial fund at any time must be determined by the department of administration and, on order of the department, must be transferred from the fund, account, and appropriation properly chargeable to the state payroll custodial fund.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 95, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 25-507.8; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 188, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Treasury funds and accounts, Title 17, ch. 2, part 1.

2-18-403. Service charges. The department of administration may provide for a system of charges for services rendered by the state central payroll system to any department or agency of the state. Funds collected under this section must be deposited to the credit of an internal services fund account and expended for the purpose of paying the expenses incurred by the state central payroll system.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 95, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 25-507.10; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 188, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 84, L. 1995.

2-18-404. Payroll roster — changes certified by appointing powers. (1) The department of administration shall establish and maintain a payroll roster of all persons employed by every state agency and may establish and maintain a roster of all established positions. The payroll roster must include exempt employees and may include emergency appointees or the equivalent.

(2) Each appointing power shall correctly and promptly certify to the department all changes, modifications, additions, and deletions to the payroll roster in compliance with all applicable merit service, fiscal, and other pertinent laws and rules.

(3) The state central payroll system must disburse or otherwise act in reliance upon all payroll roster certifications and attendance reports certified to the department by the respective appointing powers.

History: En. Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 95, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 25-507.4, 25-507.5; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 239, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 188, L. 1993.

2-18-405. Payroll based on actual, end-of-period figures — pay date — change of payroll periods. (1) All state payroll systems must be based upon actual payroll figures submitted after the end of the payroll period and may not be based upon estimated payroll.

(2) All state payroll systems must provide for the fixing of payroll periods and designated days on which salaried employees are paid for the preceding payroll period. The pay date must be uniform for all employees of each state agency employed in the same geographic area, and payroll warrants must be distributed or mailed and electronic funds transfers initiated within 10 business days following the close of the payroll period.

(3) The payroll period of employees of a state agency may not be changed by inclusion of the agency into the state payroll system or by any revision or modification of the system unless notice of the proposed change has been given to each employee who will be affected by the change in the form and manner prescribed by the department of administration not less than 60 days prior to the effective date of the change.

History: (1), (2)En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 95, L. 1969; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 51, L. 1977; Secs. 25-507.1, 25-507.2, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 95, L. 1969; Sec. 25-507.3, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 25-507.1(part), 25-507.2, 25-507.3; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 101, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 188, L. 1993.

2-18-406 through 2-18-410 reserved.

2-18-411. Lost warrants — replacement. (1) Upon receipt of proof satisfactory to the treasurer that a payroll warrant issued by the state treasurer has been lost or destroyed prior to its delivery to the employee to whom it is payable, the state treasurer shall, upon certification by the payee's appointing power, issue a replacement warrant in payment of the same amount without requiring a bond from the payee. Any loss incurred in connection with the warrant must be charged against the account from which the payment was derived.

(2) A payroll warrant is considered to have been lost if it has been sent to the payee but not received by the payee within a reasonable time, consistent with the policy of prompt payment of employees, or if it has been sent to a state officer or employee for delivery to the payee or for forwarding to another state officer or employee for delivery and has not been received within a reasonable time.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 95, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 25-507.6; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Issuance of duplicate warrants, 17-8-306.

2-18-412. Designation of person to receive decedent's warrants — reissuance. A person employed by the state may file with the person's appointing power a designation of a person who, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall, on the death of the employee, be entitled to receive all warrants that would have been payable to the decedent had the employee survived. The employee may change the designation from time to time. A person designated shall claim the warrants from the state treasurer and on sufficient proof of identity, the treasurer shall reissue the warrant in the name of the designated person and deliver the warrant to the designated person.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 95, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 25-507.7; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 325, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 2019.

Cross-References

County employees designation, 7-4-2521.
City employees designation, 7-4-4211.

Part 5
Travel, Meals, and Lodging

2-18-501. Meals, lodging, and transportation of persons in state service. All elected state officials, appointed members of boards, commissions, or councils, department directors, and all other state employees must be reimbursed for meals and lodging while away from the person's designated headquarters and engaged in official state business in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) Except as provided under subsection (3), for travel within the state of Montana, lodging must be authorized at the actual cost of lodging and taxes on the allowable cost of lodging, except as provided in subsection (3), plus $8.25 for the morning meal, $9.25 for the midday meal, and $16.00 for the evening meal except as provided in subsection (9). All claims for lodging expense reimbursement allowed under this section must be documented by an appropriate receipt.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), for travel outside the state of Montana including foreign travel, the following provisions apply:

(a) Lodging must be reimbursed at actual cost, not to exceed the prescribed maximum standard federal rate per day for the location involved plus taxes on the allowable cost.

(b) Meal reimbursement may not exceed the prescribed maximum standard federal rate per meal.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (9), the department of administration shall designate the locations and circumstances under which the governor, other elected state officials, appointed members of boards, commissions, or councils, department directors, and all other state employees may be authorized the actual cost of the following:

(a) meals, not including alcoholic beverages, when the actual cost exceeds the maximum established in subsection (2)(b); and

(b) lodging when the actual cost exceeds the maximum established in subsection (2)(a).

(4) When other than commercial, nonreceiptable lodging facilities are used by a state official or employee while conducting official state business in a travel status, the amount of $12

is authorized for lodging expenses for each day in which travel involves an overnight stay in lieu of the amount authorized in subsection (1) or (2)(a). However, when overnight accommodations are provided at the expense of a government entity, reimbursement may not be claimed for lodging.

(5) The actual cost of reasonable transportation expenses and other necessary business expenses incurred by a state official or employee while in an official travel status is subject to reimbursement.

(6) The provisions of this section may not be construed as affecting the validity of 5-2-301.

(7) The department of administration shall establish policies necessary to effectively administer this section for state government.

(8) All commercial air travel must be by the least expensive class service available.

(9) When the actual cost of meals exceeds the maximum standard allowed pursuant to subsection (1), the department of administration may authorize the actual cost of meals for firefighters.

(10) For the purposes of implementing subsection (9), the following definitions apply:

(a) "Firefighter" means a firefighter who is employed by the department of natural resources and conservation and who is directly involved in the suppression of a wildfire in Montana.

(b) "Wildfire" means an unplanned, unwanted fire burning uncontrolled and consuming vegetative fuels.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 66, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1971; amd. Ch. 295, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 495, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 483, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-538; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 643, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 582, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 646, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 399, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 561, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 85, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 87, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 87, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 11, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

State agencies to account for in-state lodging expenditures — allocation of lodging facility use tax to state general fund, 15-65-131.

Government officer as witness — no per diem for criminal proceeding, 26-2-501.

2-18-502. Computation of meal allowance. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (4), an employee is eligible for the meal allowance provided in 2-18-501, only if the employee is in a travel status for more than 3 continuous hours during the following hours:

(a) for the morning meal allowance, between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 10 a.m.;

(b) for the midday meal allowance, between the hours of 10:01 a.m. and 3 p.m.; and

(c) for the evening meal allowance, between the hours of 3:01 p.m. and 12 midnight.

(2) An eligible employee may receive:

(a) only one of the three meal allowances provided, if the travel was performed within the employee's assigned travel shift; or

(b) a maximum of two meal allowances if the travel begins before or was completed after the employee's assigned travel shift and the travel did not exceed 24 hours.

(3) "Travel shift" is that period of time beginning 1 hour before and terminating 1 hour after the employee's normally assigned work shift.

(4) An appointed member of a state board, commission, or council or a member of a legislative subcommittee or select or interim committee is entitled to a midday meal allowance on a day the individual is attending a meeting of the board, commission, council, or committee, regardless of proximity of the meeting place to the individual's residence or headquarters. This subsection does not apply to a member of a legislative committee during a legislative session.

(5) The department of administration shall prescribe policies necessary to effectively administer this section for state government.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 66, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 495, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 483, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-539; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

2-18-503. Mileage — allowance. (1) Members of the legislature, state officers and employees, jurors, witnesses, county agents, and all other persons who may be entitled to mileage paid from public funds when using their own motor vehicles in the performance of official duties are entitled to collect mileage for the distance actually traveled by motor vehicle and no more unless otherwise specifically provided by law.

(2) (a) When a state officer or employee is authorized to travel by motor vehicle and chooses to use a privately owned motor vehicle even though a government-owned or government-leased motor vehicle is available, the officer or employee may be reimbursed only at the rate of 48.15% of the mileage rate allowed by the United States internal revenue service for the current year.

(b) When a privately owned motor vehicle is used because a government-owned or government-leased motor vehicle is not available or because the use is in the best interest of the governmental entity and a notice of unavailability of a government-owned or government-leased motor vehicle or a specific exemption is attached to the travel claim, then a rate equal to the mileage allotment allowed by the United States internal revenue service for the current year must be paid for the first 1,000 miles and 3 cents less per mile for all additional miles traveled within a given calendar month.

(3) Members of the legislature, jurors, witnesses, county agents, and all other persons, except a state officer or employee, who may be entitled to mileage paid from public funds when using their own motor vehicles in the performance of official duties are entitled to collect mileage at a rate equal to the mileage allotment allowed by the United States internal revenue service for the current year for the first 1,000 miles and 3 cents less per mile for all additional miles traveled within a given calendar month.

(4) Members of the legislature, state officers and employees, jurors, witnesses, county agents, and all other persons who may be entitled to mileage paid from public funds when using their own airplanes in the performance of official duties are entitled to collect mileage for the nautical air miles actually traveled at a rate of twice the mileage allotment for motor vehicle travel and no more unless specifically provided by law.

(5) This section does not alter 5-2-301.

(6) The department of administration shall prescribe policies necessary for the effective administration of this section for state government. The Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, does not apply to policies prescribed to administer this part.

History: En. Sec. 4590, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3111, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4884, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 4884, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 495, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 355, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 532, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-801; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 622, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 439, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

2-18-504. Mileage computed by shortest traveled route. Wherever mileage is allowed to any sheriff or other officer, juror, witness, or other person under any law of Montana, the same shall be computed according to the shortest traveled route, when such shortest route is passable.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 4901, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4901, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 25-217.

2-18-505 through 2-18-510 reserved.

2-18-511. Claim for expenses. Every such person so engaged shall periodically submit a claim containing a schedule of expenses and amounts claimed for said period. Said schedule shall show in what capacity such person was engaged each day while away from the department in which said daily duties arose and shall show expense items of each day in detail, such as the amount of per diem allowance claimed, transportation fare, mileage, and other such items.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 66, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 97, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 59-540.

2-18-512. Prohibition on travel expenses for conventions — exception. A state officer or employee of the state may not receive payment from any public funds for traveling expenses or other expenses for attendance at any convention, meeting, or other gathering of public officers except for attendance at a convention, meeting, or other gatherings that the officer or employee may by virtue of the office or employment find it necessary to attend.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 443, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 130, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 443, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 80, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 25-508(part); amd. Sec. 122, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Part 6
Leave Time

Part Cross-References

Leave for military training program, 10-1-1009.

Compensation of state employee for time spent answering subpoena, 26-2-515.

2-18-601. Definitions. For the purpose of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Agency" means any legally constituted department, board, or commission of state, county, or city government or any political subdivision of the state.

(b) The term does not mean the state compensation insurance fund.

(2) "Break in service" means a period of time in excess of 5 working days when the person is not employed and that severs continuous employment.

(3) "Common association" means an association of employees established pursuant to 2-18-1310 for the purposes of employer and employee participation in the plan.

(4) "Continuous employment" means working within the same jurisdiction without a break in service of more than 5 working days or without a continuous absence without pay of more than 15 working days.

(5) "Contracting employer" means an employer who, pursuant to 2-18-1310, has contracted with the department of administration to participate in the plan.

(6) "Employee" means any person employed by an agency except elected state, county, and city officials, schoolteachers, members of the instructional or scientific staff of a community college, persons contracted as independent contractors or hired under personal services contracts, and student interns.

(7) "Floating holiday" means an annual scheduled day off with pay as provided for in 2-18-603(3) for an employee of an agency specified in 2-18-101(1).

(8) "Full-time employee" means an employee who normally works 40 hours a week.

(9) "Holiday" means:

(a) for employees of an agency specified in 2-18-101(1), a scheduled day off with pay to observe a legal holiday, as specified in 1-1-216(1)(a) through (1)(k), except Sundays; or

(b) for all other employees, a scheduled day off with pay to observe a legal holiday, as specified in 1-1-216 or 20-1-305, except Sundays.

(10) "Member" means an employee who belongs to a voluntary employees' beneficiary association established under 2-18-1310.

(11) "Part-time employee" means an employee who normally works less than 40 hours a week.

(12) "Permanent employee" means a permanent employee as defined in 2-18-101.

(13) "Plan" means the employee welfare benefit plan established under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(9) pursuant to 2-18-1304.

(14) "Seasonal employee" means a seasonal employee as defined in 2-18-101.

(15) "Short-term worker" means:

(a) for the executive and judicial branches, a short-term worker as defined in 2-18-101; or

(b) for the legislative branch, an individual who:

(i) may be hired by a legislative agency without using a competitive process for an hourly wage established by the agency;

(ii) may not work for the agency for more than 6 months in a continuous 12-month period;

(iii) is not eligible for permanent status;

(iv) may not be hired into a permanent position by the agency without a competitive selection process;

(v) is not eligible to earn the leave and holiday benefits provided in this part; and

(vi) may be discharged without cause.

(16) "Sick leave" means a leave of absence with pay for:

(a) a sickness suffered by an employee or a member of the employee's immediate family; or

(b) the time that an employee is unable to perform job duties because of:

(i) a physical or mental illness, injury, or disability;

(ii) maternity or pregnancy-related disability or treatment, including prenatal care, birth, or medical care for the employee or the employee's child;

(iii) parental leave for a permanent employee as provided in 2-18-606;

(iv) quarantine resulting from exposure to a contagious disease;

(v) examination or treatment by a licensed health care provider;

(vi) short-term attendance, in an agency's discretion, to care for a relative or household member not covered by subsection (16)(a) until other care can reasonably be obtained;

(vii) necessary care for a spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition, as defined in the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993; or

(viii) death or funeral attendance of an immediate family member or, at an agency's discretion, another person.

(17) "Student intern" means a student intern as defined in 2-18-101.

(18) "Temporary employee" means a temporary employee as defined in 2-18-101.

(19) "Transfer" means a change of employment from one agency to another agency in the same jurisdiction without a break in service.

(20) "Vacation leave" means a leave of absence with pay for the purpose of rest, relaxation, or personal business at the request of the employee and with the concurrence of the employer.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 476, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1007.1; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 568, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 260, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 756, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 314, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 75, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 582, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 175, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 370, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 167, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 87, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 87, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

2-18-602. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 568, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 1134, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 436, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 453, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol C. Sec. 1030; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 453, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 59-510(1)(part).

2-18-603. Holidays — observance when falling on employee's day off — floating holiday. (1) (a) A full-time employee who is scheduled for a day off on a day that is observed as a legal holiday, except Sundays, is entitled to receive a day off with pay either on the day preceding the holiday or on another day following the holiday in the same pay period or as scheduled by the employee and the employee's supervisor, whichever allows a day off in addition to the employee's regularly scheduled days off, provided the employee is in a pay status on the employee's last regularly scheduled working day immediately before the holiday or on the employee's first regularly scheduled working day immediately after the holiday.

(b) Part-time employees receive pay for the holiday on a prorated basis according to rules adopted by the department of administration or appropriate administrative officer under 2-18-604.

(c) A short-term worker or student intern may not receive holiday pay.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term "employee" does not include nonteaching school district employees.

(3) According to policies adopted by the department of administration:

(a) each full-time employee of an agency specified in 2-18-101(1) is entitled to one floating holiday each calendar year;

(b) each part-time employee of an agency specified in 2-18-101(1) is entitled to one floating holiday each calendar year that must be calculated proportionately to the floating holiday allowed to a full-time employee;

(c) unused floating holiday leave expires at the end of each calendar year, does not accrue, and is not paid out to employees on termination of employment; and

(d) a short-term worker or student intern may not receive a floating holiday.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 568, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 87, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 87, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Legal holidays, 1-1-216.

2-18-604. Administration of rules. The department of administration or the administrative officer of any county, city, or political subdivision is responsible for the proper administration of the employee annual, sick, or military leave provisions and the jury duty provisions found in this part and may, when necessary, promulgate rules necessary to achieve the uniform administration of these provisions and to prevent the abuse of these provisions. When promulgated, the rules are effective as to all employees of the state or any county, city, or political subdivision of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 568, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 582, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Job-sharing positions, 2-18-107.

2-18-605. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 339, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 178, L. 1981.**

2-18-606. Parental leave for state employees. (1) The department of administration shall develop a parental leave policy for permanent state employees. The policy must permit an employee to take a reasonable leave of absence and permit the employee to use sick leave immediately following the birth or placement of a child for a period not to exceed 15 working days if:

(a) the employee is adopting a child; or

(b) the employee is a birth father.

(2) As used in this section, "placement" means placement for adoption as defined in 33-22-130.

(3) A state agency that is not subject to the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 U.S.C. 2601 through 2654, may extend the provisions of that act to the employees of the agency.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 756, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 158, Ch. 480, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Maternity leave and job reinstatement, 49-2-310, 49-2-311.

2-18-607 through 2-18-610 reserved.

2-18-611. Annual vacation leave. (1) Each permanent full-time employee shall earn annual vacation leave credits from the first day of employment. Vacation leave credits earned must be credited at the end of each pay period. However, employees are not entitled to any vacation leave with pay until they have been continuously employed for a period of 6 calendar months.

(2) Seasonal employees earn vacation credits. However, seasonal employees must be employed for 6 qualifying months before they may use the vacation credits. In order to qualify, seasonal employees shall immediately report back for work when operations resume in order to avoid a break in service.

(3) Permanent part-time employees are entitled to prorated annual vacation benefits if they have worked the qualifying period.

(4) An employee may not accrue annual vacation leave credits while in a leave-without-pay status.

(5) Temporary employees earn vacation leave credits but may not use the credits until after working for 6 qualifying months.

(6) A short-term worker or a student intern, as both terms are defined in 2-18-601, may not earn vacation leave credits, and time worked as a short-term worker or as a student intern does not apply toward the person's rate of earning vacation leave credits.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 479, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1001(1), (4); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 568, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 280, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 593, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 328, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 11, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 75, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Job-sharing positions, 2-18-107.

2-18-612. Rate earned. (1) Vacation leave credits are earned at a yearly rate calculated in accordance with the following schedule, which applies to the total years of an employee's employment with any agency whether the employment is continuous or not:

Years of employment	Working days credit
1 day through 10 years	15
10 years through 15 years	18
15 years through 20 years	21
20 years or more	24

(2) (a) For the purpose of determining years of employment under this section, an employee eligible to earn vacation credits under 2-18-611 must be credited with 1 year of employment for each period of:

(i) 2,080 hours of service following the date of employment. An employee must be credited with 80 hours of service for each biweekly pay period in which the employee is in a pay status or on an authorized leave of absence without pay, regardless of the number of hours of service in the pay period.

(ii) 12 calendar months in which the employee was in a pay status or on an authorized leave of absence without pay, regardless of the number of hours of service in any 1 month. An employee of a school district, a school at a state institution, or the university system must be credited with 1 year of service if the employee is employed for an entire academic year.

(b) State agencies, other than the university system and a school at a state institution, shall use the method provided in subsection (2)(a)(i) to calculate years of service under this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 479, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1001(3); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 568, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 593, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 123, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

2-18-613. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 568, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 131, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 350, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1004.

2-18-614. Military leave considered service. A period of absence from employment with the state, county, or city occurring either during a war involving the United States or in any other national emergency and for 90 days thereafter for one of the following reasons is considered as service for the purpose of determining the number of years of employment used in calculating vacation leave credits under this section:

(1) having been ordered on active duty with the armed forces of the United States;

(2) voluntary service on active duty in the armed forces or on ships operated by or for the United States government; or

(3) direct assignment to the United States department of defense for duties related to national defense efforts if a leave of absence has been granted by the employer.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 479, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1001(2).

Cross-References

Leave for military training program, 10-1-1009.

2-18-615. Absence because of illness not chargeable against vacation unless employee approves. Absence from employment by reason of illness shall not be chargeable against unused vacation leave credits unless approved by the employee.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 131, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 350, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 476, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1005.**

2-18-616. Determination of vacation dates. The dates when employees' annual vacation leaves are granted must be determined by agreement between each employee and the employing agency with regard to the best interest of the state or any county or city of the state as well as the best interests of each employee.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 131, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1006; amd. Sec. 124, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

2-18-617. Accumulation of leave — cash for unused — transfer — death benefit. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), annual vacation leave may be accumulated to a total not to exceed two times the maximum number of days earned annually as of the end of the first pay period of the next calendar year. Excess vacation time is not forfeited if taken within 90 calendar days from the last day of the calendar year in which the excess was accrued.

(b) It is the responsibility of the head of an employing agency to provide reasonable opportunity for an employee to use rather than forfeit accumulated vacation leave. If an employee makes a reasonable written request to use excess vacation leave before the excess vacation leave must be forfeited under subsection (1)(a) and the employing agency denies the request, the excess vacation leave is not forfeited and the employing agency shall ensure that the employee may use the excess vacation leave before the end of the calendar year in which the leave would have been forfeited under subsection (1)(a).

(2) (a) An employee who terminates employment for a reason not reflecting discredit on the employee and who has worked the qualifying period set forth in 2-18-611 is entitled upon the date of termination to either:

(i) cash compensation for unused vacation leave if the employee is not subject to subsection (2)(a)(ii); or

(ii) conversion of the employee's unused vacation leave balance to an employer contribution to an employee welfare benefit plan health care expense trust account established pursuant to 2-18-1304 if:

(A) the employee is a member who belongs to a voluntary employees' beneficiary association established under 2-18-1310; and

(B) the contracting employer has entered into an agreement with members of the common association for an employer contribution based on unused vacation leave provided for in 2-18-611.

(b) Vacation leave contributed to the sick leave fund, provided for in 2-18-618, is nonrefundable and is not eligible for cash compensation upon termination.

(3) If an employee transfers between agencies of the same jurisdiction, cash compensation may not be paid for unused vacation leave. In a transfer, the receiving agency assumes the liability for the accrued vacation credits transferred with the employee.

(4) An employee may contribute accumulated vacation leave to a nonrefundable sick leave fund provided for in 2-18-618. The department of administration shall, in consultation with the state employee group benefits advisory council, provided for in 2-15-1016, adopt rules to implement this subsection.

(5) This section does not prohibit a school district from providing cash compensation for unused vacation leave in lieu of the accumulation of the leave, either through a collective bargaining agreement or, in the absence of a collective bargaining agreement, through a policy.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 131, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 121, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1974; Sec. 59-1002, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 131, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 350, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 476, L. 1973; Sec. 59-1003, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1002, 59-1003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 548, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 568, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 503, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 167, L. 2019.**

2-18-618. Sick leave. (1) A permanent full-time employee earns sick leave credits from the first day of employment. For calculating sick leave credits, 2,080 hours (52 weeks x 40 hours) equals 1 year. Sick leave credits must be credited at the end of each pay period. Sick leave credits are earned at the rate of 12 working days for each year of service without restriction as to the number of working days that may be accumulated. Employees are not entitled to be paid sick leave until they have been continuously employed 90 days.

(2) An employee may not accrue sick leave credits while in a leave-without-pay status.

(3) Permanent part-time employees are entitled to prorated leave benefits if they have worked the qualifying period.

(4) Full-time temporary and seasonal employees are entitled to sick leave benefits provided they work the qualifying period.

(5) A short-term worker may not earn sick leave credits.

(6) Except as otherwise provided in 2-18-1311, an employee who terminates employment with the agency is entitled to a lump-sum payment equal to one-fourth of the pay attributed to the accumulated sick leave. The pay attributed to the accumulated sick leave must be computed on the basis of the employee's salary or wage at the time the employee terminates employment with the state, county, or city. Accrual of sick leave credits for calculating the lump-sum payment provided for in this subsection begins July 1, 1971. The payment is the responsibility of the agency in which the sick leave accrues. However, an employee does not forfeit any sick leave rights or benefits accrued prior to July 1, 1971. However, when an employee transfers between agencies within the same jurisdiction, the employee is not entitled to a lump-sum payment. In a transfer between agencies, the receiving agency shall assume the liability for the accrued sick leave credits earned after July 1, 1971, and transferred with the employee.

(7) An employee who receives a lump-sum payment pursuant to this section or who, pursuant to 2-18-1311, converts unused sick leave to employer contributions to a health care expense trust account and who is again employed by any agency may not be credited with sick leave for which the employee has previously been compensated or for which the employee has received an employer contribution to the health care expense trust account.

(8) Abuse of sick leave is cause for dismissal and forfeiture of the lump-sum payments provided for in this section.

(9) An employee of a state agency may contribute any portion of the employee's accumulated sick leave or accumulated vacation leave to a nonrefundable sick leave fund for state employees and becomes eligible to draw upon the fund if an extensive illness or accident exhausts the employee's accumulated sick leave, irrespective of the employee's membership or nonmembership in the employee welfare benefit plan established pursuant to 2-18-1304. The department of administration shall, in consultation with the state employee group benefits advisory council, provided for in 2-15-1016, administer the sick leave fund and adopt rules to implement this subsection.

(10) A local government may establish and administer through local rule a sick leave fund into which its employees may contribute a portion of their accumulated sick leave or vacation leave.

History: En. 59-1008 by Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 476, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1008; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 568, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 280, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 707, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 328, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 414, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 758, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 339, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 272, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 47, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 167, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Job-sharing positions, 2-18-107.

2-18-619. Jury duty — service as witness. (1) Each employee who is under proper summons as a juror shall collect all fees and allowances payable as a result of the service and forward the fees to the appropriate accounting office. Juror fees must be applied against the amount due the employee from the employer. However, if an employee elects to use annual leave to serve on a jury, the employee may not be required to remit the juror fees to the employer. An employee is not required to remit to the employer any expense or mileage allowance paid by the court.

(2) An employee subpoenaed to serve as a witness shall collect all fees and allowances payable as a result of the service and forward the fees to the appropriate accounting office. Witness fees must be applied against the amount due the employee from the employer. However, if an employee elects to use annual leave to serve as a witness, the employee may not be required to remit the witness fees to the employer. An employee is not required to remit to the employer any expense or mileage allowances paid by the court.

(3) Employers may request the court to excuse their employees from jury duty if they are needed for the proper operation of a unit of state or local government.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 476, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1010; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 568, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 125, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Juries and jurors, Title 3, ch. 15.
Jury duty — who may be excused, 3-15-313.
Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 26, ch. 2.

2-18-620. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 185, L. 2009.

History: **En. 59-1011, 59-1012 by Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 107, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1011, 59-1012; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 57, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 692, L. 1991.**

2-18-621. Unlawful termination — unlawful payments. (1) It is unlawful for an employer to terminate or separate an employee from employment in an attempt to circumvent the provisions of 2-18-611, 2-18-612, and 2-18-614. If a question arises under this subsection, it must be submitted to arbitration as provided in Title 27, chapter 5, as if an agreement described in 27-5-114 is in effect, unless there is an applicable collective bargaining agreement to the contrary.

(2) (a) An employee who terminates employment is entitled to receive only:

(i) payments for accumulated wages, vacation leave as provided in 2-18-617, sick leave as provided in 2-18-618, and compensatory time earned as provided in the rules or policies of the employer; and

(ii) if the termination is the result of a reduction in force, severance pay and a retraining allowance as provided for in 2-18-622.

(b) An employee who terminates employment may not receive severance pay, a bonus, or any other type of monetary payment not described in subsection (2)(a)(i) or (2)(a)(ii).

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to:

(a) retirement benefits;

(b) a payment, settlement, award, or judgment that involves a potential or actual cause of action, legal dispute, claim, grievance, contested case, or lawsuit; or

(c) any other payment authorized by law.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 479, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1001(5); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 684, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 126, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 167, L. 2019.**

2-18-622. Reduction in force — severance pay and retraining allowance required. If a reduction in force is necessary, the state may provide severance pay and a retraining allowance. Within a collective bargaining unit, severance pay and the retraining allowance are negotiable subjects under 39-31-305.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 758, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 640, L. 1993; (3)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 640, L. 1993.**

2-18-623. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 167, L. 2019.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 167, L. 2019.**

2-18-624 and 2-18-625 reserved.

2-18-626. Department of justice employees — payment of compensation for time spent answering subpoena. A department of justice employee must receive all regular duty pay and benefits for time spent answering a subpoena in a civil or criminal cause when called to testify in connection with the employee's official duties. The department of justice may bill the person or organization requesting issuance of the subpoena for reimbursement for the employee's time.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 1987.**

Cross-References

Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 26, ch. 2.

2-18-627. Paid leave for disaster relief volunteer service. (1) An agency may grant to a state employee up to 15 days in a calendar year of a paid leave of absence for the employee to participate in specialized disaster relief services for the American red cross if:

(a) the employee is a certified American red cross disaster relief volunteer; and

(b) the American red cross has requested the employee's services.

(2) Leave time granted pursuant to this section:

(a) must be paid at the regular rate of compensation, including regular group, retirement, or leave accrual benefits, for the regular work hours during which the employee is absent from the employee's regular duties;

(b) commences upon approval of the employee's employing agency; and

(c) may not be charged against any other leave to which the employee is entitled.

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Agency" has the meaning provided in 2-18-101.

(b) "Employee" means any person employed by an agency, except an elected official.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1999.

2-18-628 through 2-18-640 reserved.

2-18-641. Exemption — employees of certain county hospitals or rest homes and hospital districts. (1) An employee of a county hospital or county rest home in a county having a taxable valuation of less than $30 million or an employee of a hospital district is exempt from the provisions of this part.

(2) For any reduction in leave benefits for an employee subject to subsection (1), there must be an increase in compensation or benefits.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 559, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2011.

Part 7
Group Insurance Generally

2-18-701. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Dependent" has the meaning provided in 33-22-140.

(2) "Employee", as the term applies to a person employed in the executive, judicial, or legislative branches of state government, means:

(a) a permanent full-time employee, as provided in 2-18-601;

(b) a permanent part-time employee, as provided in 2-18-601, who is regularly scheduled to work 20 hours or more a week;

(c) a seasonal full-time employee, as provided in 2-18-601, who is regularly scheduled to work 6 months or more a year or who works for a continuous period of more than 6 months a year although not regularly scheduled to do so;

(d) a seasonal part-time employee, as provided in 2-18-601, who is regularly scheduled to work 20 hours or more a week for 6 months or more a year or who works 20 hours or more a week for a continuous period of more than 6 months a year although not regularly scheduled to do so;

(e) elected officials;

(f) officers and permanent employees of the legislative branch;

(g) judges and permanent employees of the judicial branch;

(h) academic, professional, and administrative personnel having individual contracts under the authority of the board of regents of higher education or the state board of public education;

(i) a temporary full-time employee, as provided in 2-18-601:

(i) who is regularly scheduled to work more than 6 months a year;

(ii) who works for a continuous period of more than 6 months a year although not regularly scheduled to do so; or

(iii) whose temporary status is defined through collective bargaining;

(j) a temporary part-time employee, as provided in 2-18-601:

(i) who is regularly scheduled to work 20 hours or more a week for 6 months or more a year;

(ii) who works 20 hours or more a week for a continuous period of more than 6 months a year although not regularly scheduled to do so; or

(iii) whose temporary status is defined through collective bargaining;

(k) a full-time short-term worker, as provided in 2-18-101 and 2-18-601, who is in a position that does not recur each year;

(l) a part-time short-term worker, as provided in 2-18-101 and 2-18-601, who is regularly scheduled to work 20 hours or more a week in a position that does not recur each year; and

(m) a part-time or full-time employee of the state compensation insurance fund. As used in this subsection, "part-time or full-time employee of the state compensation insurance fund" means an employee eligible for inclusion in the state employee group benefit plans under the rules of the department of administration.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1024(5); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 421, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 314, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 75, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 356, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 175, L. 2017.

2-18-702. Group insurance for public employees and officers. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), all counties, cities, towns, school districts, and the board of regents shall upon approval by two-thirds vote of their respective officers and employees enter into group hospitalization, medical, health, including long-term disability, accident, or group life insurance contracts or plans for the benefit of their officers and employees and their dependents. The laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of marital status in Title 49 do not prohibit bona fide group insurance plans from providing greater or additional contributions for insurance benefits to employees with dependents than to employees without dependents or with fewer dependents.

(b) The governing body of a county, city, or town may, at its discretion, consider the employees of private, nonprofit economic development organizations, hospitals, health centers, or nursing homes to be employees of the county, city, or town solely for the purpose of participation in group hospitalization, medical, health, including long-term disability, accident, or group life insurance contracts or plans as provided in subsection (1)(a). The governing body of the county, city, or town may require an employee, organization, hospital, health center, or nursing home to pay the actual cost of coverage required for participation or may, at its discretion and subject to any restriction on who may be a member of a group, pay all or part of the cost of coverage of the employee of the organization.

(c) The governing body of a county having a taxable valuation of less than $30 million or the board of trustees of a hospital district may, at its discretion, exempt employees of a county hospital, county rest home or nursing home, or hospital district from participation in group hospitalization, medical, health, including long-term disability, accident, or group life insurance contracts or plans provided pursuant to subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).

(2) State employees and elected officials, as defined in 2-18-701, may participate in state employee group benefit plans as are provided for under part 8 of this chapter.

(3) For state officers and employees, the premiums required from time to time to maintain the insurance in force must be paid by the insured officers and employees, and the state treasurer shall deduct the premiums from the salary or wages of each officer or employee who elects to become insured, on the officer's or employee's written order, and issue a warrant for the premiums to the insurer.

(4) For the purpose of this section, the plans of health service corporations for defraying or assuming the cost of professional services of licensees in the field of health or the services of hospitals, clinics, or sanitariums or both professional and hospital services must be construed as group insurance and the dues payable under the plans must be construed as premiums for group insurance.

(5) If the board of trustees of a school district implements a self-insured group health plan or if the board of regents implements an alternative to conventional insurance to provide group benefits to its employees, the board shall maintain the alternative plan on an actuarially sound basis.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 563, L. 1977; Sec. 11-1024, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 11, Ch. 555, L. 1979; (3), (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 1963; Sec. 40-3905.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1024(1), 40-3905.1; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 555, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 421, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 325, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 559, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 128, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Job-sharing positions, 2-18-107.

2-18-703. Contributions. (1) Each agency, as defined in 2-18-601, and the state compensation insurance fund shall contribute the amount specified in this section toward the group benefits cost.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), for employees defined in 2-18-701 and for members of the legislature, the employer contribution for group benefits is $1,054 a month.

(b) For employees defined in 2-18-701 and for members of the legislature, beginning January 2020 and for each succeeding month, the cost of group benefits, including both the employer and employee contributions for group benefits and health flexible spending accounts, may not exceed the monthly amount for self-only coverage and coverage other than self-only that will trigger the excise tax under 26 U.S.C. 4980I, including any cost-of-living adjustments under 26 U.S.C. 4980I. This section limits contributions for group benefits only to the extent needed to avoid triggering the excise tax under 26 U.S.C. 4980I.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (2)(d), for employees of the Montana university system, the employer contribution for group benefits is $1,054 a month.

(d) For employees of the Montana university system, beginning the earlier of July 2020 or the first month in 2020 in which the excise tax under 26 U.S.C. 4980I applies, and for each succeeding month, the cost of group benefits, including both the employer and employee contributions for group benefits and health flexible spending accounts, may not exceed the monthly amount for self-only coverage and coverage other than self-only that will trigger the excise tax under 26 U.S.C. 4980I, including any cost-of-living adjustments under 26 U.S.C. 4980I. This section limits contributions for group benefits only to the extent needed to avoid triggering the excise tax under 26 U.S.C. 4980I.

(e) If a state employee is terminated to achieve a reduction in force, the continuation of contributions for group benefits beyond the termination date is subject to negotiation under 39-31-305 and to the protections of 2-18-1205. Permanent part-time, seasonal part-time, and temporary part-time employees who are regularly scheduled to work less than 20 hours a week are not eligible for the group benefit contribution. An employee who elects not to be covered by a state-sponsored group benefit plan may not receive the state contribution. A portion of the employer contribution for group benefits may be applied to an employee's costs for participation in Part B of medicare under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended, if the state group benefit plan is the secondary payer and medicare the primary payer.

(3) For employees of elementary and high school districts, the employer's contributions may exceed but may not be less than $10 a month.

(4) (a) For employees of political subdivisions, as defined in 2-9-101, except school districts, the employer's contributions may exceed but may not be less than $10 a month.

(b) Subject to the public hearing requirement provided in 2-9-212(2)(b), the amount in excess of the base contribution of a local government's property tax levy for contributions for group benefits as determined in subsection (4)(c) is not subject to the mill levy calculation limitation provided for in 15-10-420.

(c) (i) Subject to subsections (4)(c)(ii) and (4)(c)(iii), the base contribution is determined by multiplying the average annual contribution for each employee on July 1, 1999, times the number of employees for whom the employer makes contributions for group benefits under 2-9-212 on July 1 of each fiscal year.

(ii) If a political subdivision did not make contributions for group benefits on or before July 1, 1999, and subsequently does so, the base contribution is determined by multiplying the average annual contribution for each employee in the first year the political subdivision provides contributions for group benefits times the number of employees for whom the employer makes contributions for group benefits under 2-9-212 on July 1 of each fiscal year.

(iii) If a political subdivision has made contributions for group benefits but has not previously levied for contributions in excess of the base contribution, the political subdivision's base is determined by multiplying the average annual contribution for each employee at the beginning of the fiscal year immediately preceding the year in which the levy will first be levied times the number of employees for whom the employer made contributions for group benefits under 2-9-212 in that fiscal year.

(5) Unused employer contributions for any state employee must be transferred to an account established for this purpose by the department of administration and upon transfer may be used to offset losses occurring to the group of which the employee is eligible to be a member.

(6) Unused employer contributions for any government employee may be transferred to an account established for this purpose by a self-insured government and upon transfer may be used to offset losses occurring to the group of which the employee is eligible to be a member or to increase the reserves of the group.

(7) The laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of marital status in Title 49 do not prohibit bona fide group insurance plans from providing greater or additional contributions for insurance benefits to employees with dependents than to employees without dependents or with fewer dependents.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1024(2); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 678, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 421, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 710, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 740, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 661, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 660, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 758, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 13, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 640, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 314, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 511, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 6, 9, Ch. 553, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 2, 4, Ch. 529, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 552, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 6, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 7, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 385, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 438, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 175, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, Sp. L. November 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 85, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 2021.

2-18-704. Mandatory provisions. (1) An insurance contract or plan issued under this part must contain provisions that permit:

(a) the member of a group who retires from active service under the appropriate retirement provisions of a defined benefit plan provided by law or, in the case of the defined contribution plan provided in Title 19, chapter 3, part 21, a member with at least 5 years of service and who is at least age 50 while in covered employment to remain a member of the group until the member becomes eligible for medicare under the federal Health Insurance for the Aged Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395, unless the member is a participant in another group plan with substantially the same or greater benefits at an equivalent cost or unless the member is employed and, by virtue of that employment, is eligible to participate in another group plan with substantially the same or greater benefits at an equivalent cost;

(b) the surviving spouse of a member to remain a member of the group as long as the spouse is eligible for retirement benefits accrued by the deceased member as provided by law unless the spouse is eligible for medicare under the federal Health Insurance for the Aged Act or unless the spouse has or is eligible for equivalent insurance coverage as provided in subsection (1)(a);

(c) the surviving children of a member to remain members of the group as long as they are eligible for retirement benefits accrued by the deceased member as provided by law unless they have equivalent coverage as provided in subsection (1)(a) or are eligible for insurance coverage by virtue of the employment of a surviving parent or legal guardian.

(2) An insurance contract or plan issued under this part must contain the provisions of subsection (1) for remaining a member of the group and also must permit:

(a) the spouse of a retired member the same rights as a surviving spouse under subsection (1)(b);

(b) the spouse of a retiring member to convert a group policy as provided in 33-22-508; and

(c) continued membership in the group by anyone eligible under the provisions of this section, notwithstanding the person's eligibility for medicare under the federal Health Insurance for the Aged Act.

(3) (a) A state insurance contract or plan must contain provisions that permit a legislator to remain a member of the state's group plan until the legislator becomes eligible for medicare under the federal Health Insurance for the Aged Act if the legislator:

(i) terminates service in the legislature and is a vested member of a state retirement system provided by law; and

(ii) notifies the department of administration in writing within 90 days of the end of the legislator's legislative term.

(b) A former legislator may not remain a member of the group plan under the provisions of subsection (3)(a) if the person:

(i) is a member of a plan with substantially the same or greater benefits at an equivalent cost; or

(ii) is employed and, by virtue of that employment, is eligible to participate in another group plan with substantially the same or greater benefits at an equivalent cost.

(c) A legislator who remains a member of the group under the provisions of subsection (3)(a) and subsequently terminates membership may not rejoin the group plan unless the person again serves as a legislator.

(4) (a) A state insurance contract or plan must contain provisions that permit continued membership in the state's group plan by a member of the judges' retirement system who leaves judicial office but continues to be an inactive vested member of the judges' retirement system as provided by 19-5-301. The judge shall notify the department of administration in writing within 90 days of the end of the judge's judicial service of the judge's choice to continue membership in the group plan.

(b) A former judge may not remain a member of the group plan under the provisions of this subsection (4) if the person:

(i) is a member of a plan with substantially the same or greater benefits at an equivalent cost;

(ii) is employed and, by virtue of that employment, is eligible to participate in another group plan with substantially the same or greater benefits at an equivalent cost; or

(iii) becomes eligible for medicare under the federal Health Insurance for the Aged Act.

(c) A judge who remains a member of the group under the provisions of this subsection (4) and subsequently terminates membership may not rejoin the group plan unless the person again serves in a position covered by the state's group plan.

(5) A person electing to remain a member of the group under subsection (1), (2), (3), or (4) shall pay the full premium for coverage and for that of the person's covered dependents.

(6) An insurance contract or plan issued under this part that provides for the dispensing of prescription drugs by an out-of-state mail service pharmacy, as defined in 37-7-702:

(a) must permit any member of a group to obtain prescription drugs from a pharmacy located in Montana that is willing to match the price charged to the group or plan and to meet all terms and conditions, including the same professional requirements that are met by the mail service pharmacy for a drug, without financial penalty to the member; and

(b) may only be with an out-of-state mail service pharmacy that is registered with the board under Title 37, chapter 7, part 7, and that is registered in this state as a foreign corporation.

(7) An insurance contract or plan issued under this part must include coverage for:

(a) treatment of inborn errors of metabolism, as provided for in 33-22-131;

(b) therapies for Down syndrome, as provided in 33-22-139;

(c) treatment for children with hearing loss as provided in 33-22-128(1) and (2);

(d) fertility preservation services as required under 33-22-2103;

(e) the care and treatment of mental illness in accordance with the provisions of Title 33, chapter 22, part 7;

(f) telehealth services, as provided for in 33-22-138; and

(g) refills of prescription eyedrops as provided in 33-22-154.

(8) (a) An insurance contract or plan issued under this part that provides coverage for an individual in a member's family must provide coverage for well-child care for children from the moment of birth through 7 years of age. Benefits provided under this coverage are exempt from any deductible provision that may be in force in the contract or plan.

(b) Coverage for well-child care under subsection (8)(a) must include:

(i) a history, physical examination, developmental assessment, anticipatory guidance, and laboratory tests, according to the schedule of visits adopted under the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services program provided for in 53-6-101; and

(ii) routine immunizations according to the schedule for immunization recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices of the U.S. department of health and human services.

(c) Minimum benefits may be limited to one visit payable to one provider for all of the services provided at each visit as provided for in this subsection (8).

(d) For purposes of this subsection (8):

(i) "developmental assessment" and "anticipatory guidance" mean the services described in the Guidelines for Health Supervision II, published by the American academy of pediatrics; and

(ii) "well-child care" means the services described in subsection (8)(b) and delivered by a physician or a health care professional supervised by a physician.

(9) Upon renewal, an insurance contract or plan issued under this part under which coverage of a dependent terminates at a specified age must continue to provide coverage for any dependent, as defined in the insurance contract or plan, until the dependent reaches 26 years of age. For insurance contracts or plans issued under this part, the premium charged for the additional coverage of a dependent, as defined in the insurance contract or plan, may be required to be paid by the insured and not by the employer.

(10) Prior to issuance of an insurance contract or plan under this part, written informational materials describing the contract's or plan's cancer screening coverages must be provided to a prospective group or plan member.

(11) The state employee group benefit plans and the Montana university system group benefits plans must provide coverage for hospital inpatient care for a period of time as is determined by the attending physician and, in the case of a health maintenance organization, the primary care physician, in consultation with the patient to be medically necessary following a mastectomy, a lumpectomy, or a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer.

(12) (a) (i) The state employee group benefit plans and the Montana university system group benefits plans must provide coverage for medically necessary and prescribed outpatient self-management training and education for the treatment of diabetes. Any education must be provided by a licensed health care professional with expertise in diabetes. At a minimum, the benefit must consist of:

(A) 20 visits of training and education in diabetes self-management provided in either an individual or group setting if the person has not received the training and education previously; and

(B) 12 visits of followup diabetes self-management training and education services in subsequent years for an insured who has previously received and exhausted the initial 20 visits of education.

(ii) For the purposes of this subsection (12)(a), the term "visit" refers to a period of 30 minutes.

(b) The state employee group benefit plans and the Montana university system group benefits plans must provide coverage for diabetic equipment and supplies that at a minimum includes insulin, syringes, injection aids, devices for self-monitoring of glucose levels (including those for the visually impaired), test strips, visual reading and urine test strips, one insulin pump for each warranty period, accessories to insulin pumps, one prescriptive oral agent for controlling blood sugar levels for each class of drug approved by the United States food and drug administration, and glucagon emergency kits.

(c) Nothing in subsection (12)(a) or (12)(b) prohibits the state or the Montana university group benefit plans from providing a greater benefit or an alternative benefit of substantially equal value, in which case subsection (12)(a) or (12)(b), as appropriate, does not apply.

(d) Annual copayment and deductible provisions are subject to the same terms and conditions applicable to all other covered benefits within a given policy.

(e) This subsection (12) does not apply to disability income, hospital indemnity, medicare supplement, accident-only, vision, dental, specific disease, or long-term care policies offered by the state or the Montana university system as benefits to employees, retirees, and their dependents.

(13) (a) Except as provided in subsection (16), the state employee group benefit plans and the Montana university system group benefits plans that provide coverage to the spouse or

dependents of a peace officer as defined in 45-2-101, a game warden as defined in 19-8-101, a firefighter as defined in 19-13-104, or a volunteer firefighter as defined in 19-17-102 shall renew the coverage of the spouse or dependents if the peace officer, game warden, firefighter, or volunteer firefighter dies within the course and scope of employment. Except as provided in subsection (13)(b), the continuation of the coverage is at the option of the spouse or dependents. Renewals of coverage under this section must provide for the same level of benefits as is available to other members of the group. Premiums charged to a spouse or dependent under this section must be the same as premiums charged to other similarly situated members of the group. Dependent special enrollment must be allowed under the terms of the insurance contract or plan. The provisions of this subsection (13)(a) are applicable to a spouse or dependent who is insured under a COBRA continuation provision.

(b) The state employee group benefit plans and the Montana university system group benefits plans subject to the provisions of subsection (13)(a) may discontinue or not renew the coverage of a spouse or dependent only if:

(i) the spouse or dependent has failed to pay premiums or contributions in accordance with the terms of the state employee group benefit plans and the Montana university system group benefits plans or if the plans have not received timely premium payments;

(ii) the spouse or dependent has performed an act or practice that constitutes fraud or has made an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact under the terms of the coverage; or

(iii) the state employee group benefit plans and the Montana university system group benefits plans are ceasing to offer coverage in accordance with applicable state law.

(14) The state employee group benefit plans and the Montana university system group benefits plans must comply with the provisions of 33-22-153.

(15) An insurance contract or plan issued under this part and a group benefits plan issued by the Montana university system must provide mental health coverage that meets the provisions of Title 33, chapter 22, part 7.

(16) The employing state agency of a law enforcement officer as defined in 2-15-2040 who is covered under the state employee group benefit plan shall:

(a) if the officer is catastrophically injured in the line of duty as defined in 2-15-2040, enroll the officer and the officer's covered spouse or dependent children in COBRA continuation coverage when that officer is terminated from employment as a result of the catastrophic injury. The officer and the officer's spouse or dependent children may opt out of COBRA continuation coverage within 60 days of enrollment.

(b) enroll the officer's covered spouse or dependent children in COBRA continuation coverage if the officer dies in the line of duty as defined in 2-15-2040. The officer's spouse or dependent children may opt out of COBRA coverage within 60 days of the date of enrollment.

(c) pay the COBRA premium for 4 months of COBRA continuation coverage for the officer and the officer's covered spouse or dependent children enrolled in COBRA continuation coverage pursuant to subsections (16)(a) or (16)(b), after which time the officer and the officer's spouse or dependent children shall pay the COBRA premium. *(See compiler's comments for contingent termination of certain text.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1024(3), (4); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 738, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 434, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 471, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 450, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 356, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 463, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 97, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 256, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 209, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 520, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 669, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 782, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 179, L. 2023, inserted (7)(g) concerning refills of prescription eyedrops; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective January 1, 2024.

Section 2, Ch. 520, L. 2023, in (12)(a)(i) in first sentence before "outpatient self-management training" inserted "medically necessary and prescribed" and inserted third sentence and (12)(a)(i)(A) and (12)(a)(i)(B) concerning minimum benefit requirements; inserted (12)(a)(ii) defining visit; deleted former (12)(b) that read: "(b) Coverage must include a $250 benefit for a person each year for medically necessary and prescribed outpatient self-management training and education for the treatment of diabetes"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective January 1, 2024.

Section 7, Ch. 669, L. 2023, in (13)(a) at beginning of first sentence inserted exception clause; and inserted (16) concerning COBRA continuation coverage for officer, officer's covered spouse, or dependent children if officer is catastrophically injured or killed in the line of duty; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Section 5, Ch. 782, L. 2023, inserted (7)(d) concerning fertility preservation services; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective January 1, 2024.

Retroactive Applicability — Applicability: Section 16, Ch. 669, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to persons eligible for loss payments from the Montana end of watch trust pursuant to [section 3(2)] [2-15-2042(2)] on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) Retroactive payments allowed in subsection (1) must be made for 5 years from July 1, 2023."

Section 12, Ch. 782, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to insurance policies, certificates, and contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2024."

Contingent Voidness: Section 6, Ch. 54, L. 2011, provided: "(1) If provisions of Public Law 111-148, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or Public Law 111-152, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, that mandate that a health insurance plan, such as a plan governed under 2-18-704, provide coverage for a dependent until the dependent reaches 26 years of age are amended, repealed, or determined by the U.S. supreme court to be unconstitutional or unenforceable, then the amendment in 2-18-704(9), as amended by [this act], striking "25" and inserting "26" is void as of the effective date of the amendment, repeal, or court decision.

(2) Upon determination by the department of administration that the contingency described in subsection (1) has been met, the department shall notify the code commissioner."

2-18-705. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 363, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 363, L. 2013.

2-18-706 through 2-18-710 reserved.

2-18-711. Cooperative purchasing of employee benefit services and insurance products — procedures. (1) To provide employee group benefits, an agency, as defined in 2-18-601, and the state compensation insurance fund may participate with other agencies, nonprofit organizations, or business entities and in voluntary disability insurance purchasing pools provided for under 33-22-1815 if the agency or the state fund determines that cooperative purchasing is in the agency's or the state fund's best interest.

(2) Cooperative purchases under this section may be conducted according to purchasing procedures developed by the participating parties if, for contracts valued at $20,000 a year or more, purchasing procedures, at a minimum, include:

(a) public notice in three major Montana newspapers of requirements for submitting bids or offers; and

(b) consideration of all submitted bids or offers.

(3) For purposes of this section, "employee" also means a schoolteacher or a member of the instructional or scientific staff of a community college.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 314, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 370, L. 2017.

2-18-712 through 2-18-714 reserved.

2-18-715. Legislative findings and purpose. (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) air ambulance services provide a necessary, and sometimes lifesaving, means of transporting Montanans experiencing health emergencies;

(b) Montanans desire adequate access to air ambulance services;

(c) in many cases the high charges assessed by out-of-network air ambulance services and limited insurer and health plan reimbursements have resulted in Montanans incurring excessive out-of-pocket expenses; and

(d) the federal Airline Deregulation Act preempts states from enacting any law related to a price, route, or service of an air carrier, which is interpreted as applying to air ambulance services.

(2) The purpose of 2-18-715 through 2-18-720 is to prevent Montanans from incurring excessive out-of-pocket expenses in out-of-network air ambulance situations in a manner that is not preempted by the Airline Deregulation Act.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 2017.

2-18-716. Hold harmless. (1) If a covered person receives services from a non-Montana hospital-controlled out-of-network air ambulance service for an emergency medical condition, an insurer or health plan shall assume the covered person's responsibility, if any, for amounts charged in excess of allowed amounts for covered services and supplies, applicable copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles.

(2) An insurer or health plan that assumes a responsibility pursuant to subsection (1) shall notify the air ambulance service of that assumption no later than the date the insurer or health plan issues payment under subsection (4).

(3) If an air ambulance service receives notice pursuant to subsection (2), with the exception of amounts owed for applicable copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, the air ambulance service may not:

(a) bill, collect, or attempt to collect from the covered person for the responsibility assumed under subsection (1);

(b) report to a consumer reporting agency that the covered person is delinquent on the responsibility assumed under subsection (1); or

(c) obtain a lien on the covered person's property in connection with the responsibility assumed under subsection (1).

(4) (a) An insurer or health plan is responsible for payment or denial of a claim within 30 days after receipt of a proof of loss, except as provided in 33-18-232(1). Within the timeframe provided in this subsection (4)(a), the insurer or health plan shall notify the covered person of the amount of deductible, coinsurance, or copayment that is the covered person's responsibility to pay.

(b) The insurer or health plan responsible under subsection (1) shall make payment based on:

(i) the billed charges of the air ambulance service;

(ii) another amount negotiated with the air ambulance service; or

(iii) the median amount the insurer or health plan would pay to an in-network air ambulance service for the services performed.

(5) If after payment is made under subsection (4) the insurer or health plan and air ambulance service dispute whether any further payment obligation exists, the insurer or health plan and air ambulance service shall enter into the dispute resolution process set forth in 2-18-718 through 2-18-720. After the independent dispute resolution process is exhausted, the aggrieved party may pursue any available remedies in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(6) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "emergency medical condition" means a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, so that a person who possesses knowledge of health and medicine could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

(i) placing the health of the individual or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child in serious jeopardy;

(ii) serious impairment to bodily functions; or

(iii) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; and

(b) "insurer" means a health insurance issuer as defined in 33-22-140 and includes issuers of health insurance under Titles 2 and 20.

(7) Sections 2-18-715 through 2-18-720 do not apply if a covered person used an air ambulance membership subscription, as provided in 50-6-320, for the services provided by the air ambulance service.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 2017.

2-18-717. Disclosures by air ambulance service. An out-of-network nonhospital-controlled air ambulance service must disclose by July 1 of each year any relationships or financial arrangements with health care providers, insurers, or health plans. This includes but is not limited to employment arrangements, ownership interests, first call agreements, and board memberships. This information must be filed with the department of public health and human services and also posted prominently on the commissioner of insurance's website. The air ambulance service must ensure the continued accuracy of this information throughout the year by submitting written updates within 5 days of any changes to the information.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 231, L. 2017.

2-18-718. Independent dispute resolution. (1) If an insurer or health plan and air ambulance service enter into dispute resolution, the procedure in 2-18-719 is to be used to determine the fair market price of the services that are the subject of the claim.

(2) Payment of the fair market price calculated pursuant to 2-18-719 constitutes payment in full of the claim.

(3) A determination under this section is not binding on the insurer or health plan and the air ambulance service.

(4) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, each party shall:

(a) bear its own attorney fees and costs incurred under the procedure provided in 2-18-719; and

(b) equally bear all fees and costs of the independent reviewer.

(5) As used in this section, "fair market price" means the value of the services provided as determined by the independent reviewer based on the factors provided in 2-18-719(6).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 231, L. 2017.

2-18-719. Independent dispute resolution procedure — exemptions. (1) To initiate a dispute resolution procedure under 2-18-715 through 2-18-720, the parties shall file a written notice of dispute with the insurance commissioner.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), within 30 days after the date of receipt of the notice of dispute, and if no independent reviewer is mutually agreed to by the insurer or health plan and air ambulance service under subsection (3), the insurance commissioner shall appoint an independent reviewer having the qualifications listed in 2-18-720. The insurance commissioner shall select an independent reviewer randomly from a list established under 2-18-720.

(3) The insurer or health plan and air ambulance provider may by mutual agreement select an independent reviewer. The parties shall notify the insurance commissioner of the mutually agreed independent reviewer prior to the appointment of an independent reviewer under subsection (2).

(4) An independent reviewer's sole substantive determination under this part is the fair market price of the services that are the subject of the claim.

(5) The independent reviewer may make procedural rulings necessary to regulate the proceedings.

(6) The factors to be used in the independent reviewer's determination are:

(a) the training, qualifications, and composition of the air ambulance service personnel;

(b) the fees for rotor wing or fixed wing services originating or provided entirely within the state of Montana that are:

(i) usually charged by the air ambulance service in Montana;

(ii) usually accepted as payment in full by the air ambulance service in Montana;

(iii) usually charged by other air ambulance services doing business in Montana;

(iv) usually accepted as payment in full by other air ambulance services doing business in Montana; and

(v) usually paid by the insurer or health plan for the service provided in Montana;

(c) whether the air ambulance service was provided in a rural or urban context;

(d) the applicable medicare rate of payment for the services that are the subject of the claim; and

(e) any other factors the independent reviewer determines to be relevant in determining fair market price in accordance with established precedent.

(7) Participation in a dispute resolution procedure under 2-18-718 through 2-18-720 exempts an insurer from 33-18-201(6) and (8) and 33-18-232(2).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 231, L. 2017.

2-18-720. Insurance commissioner duties — independent reviewer qualifications. (1) The insurance commissioner shall:

(a) approve any independent reviewer that is eligible to adjudicate disputes under 2-18-715 through 2-18-720;

(b) maintain a list of independent reviewers eligible to adjudicate disputes under 2-18-715 through 2-18-720;

(c) terminate approval of an independent reviewer and remove the independent reviewer from the list of approved independent reviewers upon determining that an independent reviewer no longer meets the requirements to adjudicate disputes; and

(d) adopt rules necessary to implement 2-18-715 through 2-18-720, including rules regarding discovery and other procedures regarding the dispute resolution process and eligibility of an independent reviewer.

(2) An individual is eligible to be an independent reviewer under 2-18-715 through 2-18-720 if the individual is knowledgeable and experienced in applicable principles of contract and insurance law.

(3) In approving an individual as an independent reviewer, the insurance commissioner shall ensure that the individual does not have a conflict of interest that would adversely impact the individual's independence and impartiality in rendering a decision in an independent dispute resolution procedure under 2-18-718 and 2-18-719. A conflict of interest includes but is not limited to an ownership or direct familial interest in an insurer, a health care provider, or an air ambulance service that may be involved in an independent dispute resolution procedure under 2-18-718 and 2-18-719.

(4) In approving an individual as an independent reviewer, the insurance commissioner may not approve an individual who is currently serving in any matter as a hearing officer for the commissioner.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 231, L. 2017.

Part 8
State Group Insurance

2-18-801. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

History: (1)En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; (2), (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 438, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 347, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1501.

2-18-802. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 438, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1506.

2-18-803. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 438, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1503(3).

2-18-804. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 438, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1504.

2-18-805. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 438, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1507.

2-18-806. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 438, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1502.

2-18-807. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 438, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 59-1505.

2-18-808. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to establish a program under which the state may provide state employees with adequate group hospitalization, health, medical, disability, life, and other related group benefits in an efficient manner and at an affordable cost.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

2-18-809. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Advisory council" means the state employee group benefits advisory council provided for in 2-15-1016.

(2) "Department" means the department of administration provided for in 2-15-1001.

(3) "Flexible spending account" means a funding and accounting arrangement allowed by federal law that:

(a) gives a state employee a choice between receiving taxable salary or having a part of the employee's salary withheld; and

(b) provides for depositing any portion of the state employee's salary withheld and any employer contribution designated by the employee into an account and receiving from that account nontaxable reimbursement for certain out-of-pocket medical expenses of the state employee or a dependent of the employee.

(4) "Group benefits" means group hospitalization, health, medical, surgical, disability, life, and other similar and related group benefits provided to officers and employees of the state, including flexible spending account benefits. The term "group benefits" does not include casualty insurance, defined in 33-1-206; marine insurance, authorized in 33-1-209 and 33-1-221 through 33-1-229; property insurance, defined in 33-1-210; surety insurance, defined in 33-1-211; and title insurance, defined in 33-1-212.

(5) (a) "State employee" means an employee of the state, specifically including a member or employee of the legislative branch of state government.

(b) The term "state employee" does not include employees of counties, cities, towns, school districts, or the Montana university system or a student intern, as defined in 2-18-101.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 555, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 467, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 2005.

2-18-810. Functions of advisory council. (1) The department shall meet and consult with the advisory council before negotiating, contracting, or otherwise modifying state employee group benefit plans.

(2) The advisory council shall meet quarterly to review the existing state employee group benefit plans, to review claims problems, and to advise the department on state employee group benefit matters.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

2-18-811. General duties of department. The department shall:

(1) adopt rules for the conduct of its business under this part and to carry out the purposes of this part;

(2) negotiate and administer contracts for state employee group benefit plans for a period not to exceed 10 years;

(3) design state employee group benefit plans, establish specifications for bids, and make recommendations for acceptance or rejection of bids;

(4) prepare an annual report that describes the state employee group benefit plans being administered, details the historical and projected program costs and the status of reserve funds, and makes recommendations, if any, for change in existing state employee group benefit plans;

(5) prior to each legislative session, perform or obtain an analysis of rate adequacy of all state employee group benefit plans administered under this part; and

(6) submit the report required in this section to the office of budget and program planning as a part of the information required by 17-7-111.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 555, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 2007.

2-18-812. Alternatives to conventional insurance for providing state employee group benefits authorized — requirements. The department may establish alternatives to conventional insurance for providing state employee group benefits. The requirements for providing alternatives to conventional insurance are as follows:

(1) The department shall maintain state employee group benefit plans on an actuarially sound basis.

(2) The department shall maintain reserves sufficient to liquidate the unrevealed claims liability and other liabilities of state employee group benefit plans.

(3) The department shall deposit all reserve funds and premiums paid to a state employee group benefit plan account within the state self-insurance reserve fund, and the deposits must be expended for claims under the plan.

(4) The department shall deposit income earned from the investment of a state employee group benefit plan's reserve fund into the account established under subsection (3) in order to offset the costs of administering the plan.

(5) The department shall deposit into the account provided for in subsection (3) all portions of a state employee's salary designated by the employee to be withheld for the purposes of flexible spending account benefits. Income earned on the deposits must be retained within the account and used for the purposes provided in this subsection. The money deposited and income earned on the deposits must be used for:

(a) payment of claims made by the employee;

(b) payment of reasonable costs of administration of the flexible spending account program;
(c) offsetting losses of the flexible spending account program; and
(d) reducing administration fees collected from participants in the program.

(6) The department shall, prior to implementation of any alternative to conventional insurance, present to the advisory council the evidence upon which the department has concluded that the alternative method will be more efficient, less costly, or otherwise superior to contracting for conventional insurance.

(7) Except as otherwise provided in Title 33, chapter 18, part 9, the provisions of Title 33 do not apply to the department when exercising the powers and duties provided for in this section.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 555, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 703, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 628, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 532, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 88, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 438, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 175, L. 2017.

2-18-813. Combining existing employee groups authorized. The department may combine existing state employee groups into larger groups for the purpose of establishing state employee group benefit plans on behalf of the combined groups. The department may also combine state employees into a single group for purposes of state employee group benefits under this part.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

2-18-814. Administrative costs. The department shall include the costs of administering and negotiating state employee group benefit plans established under this part, as well as the costs of hiring necessary consultants, actuaries, and auditors under this part, as part of the cost for state employee group benefits.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

2-18-815. Transfer of authority of board of regents authorized. (1) The board of regents of higher education may transfer its authority for providing group benefits for employees of the Montana university system to the department.

(2) Upon transfer of the board of regents' authority as provided in (1) of this section, group benefit plans for employees of the Montana university system are subject to the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 555, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Board of Regents, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; 2-15-1505.
Montana University System — regents' powers and duties, Title 20, ch. 25, part 3.

2-18-816. Biennial audit of group benefit plans required. The state employee group benefit plans established under this part, whether established on a self-funded basis or not, must be audited every 2 years. The audit must cover the 2-year period since the last audit and be conducted by or at the direction of the legislative auditor.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 555, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Legislative Auditor, Title 5, ch. 13, part 3.
Certified public accountants, 37-50-302.

2-18-817 through 2-18-819 reserved.

2-18-820. Continuation of health insurance for legislators. A legislator who is involuntarily terminated from performing service in either house of the legislature because of term limits is entitled to remain covered by the state's group health insurance plan and to the continuation of the employer's contributions to the employee's group health insurance plan for up to 6 months from the last day of the legislator's final term of office in that house. The provisions of this section are in addition to the rights and benefits provided under 2-18-704 and do not affect the right of a legislator to remain on the group health insurance plan after 6 months if the legislator is otherwise eligible under 2-18-704 to remain covered.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 558, L. 1999.

Part 9
Subrogation — Notice

Part Cross-References

Subrogation rights — collateral source reductions, 27-1-308.
Disability insurance — subrogation rights, Title 33, ch. 22, part 16.
Workers' compensation — subrogation, 39-71-414.

2-18-901. Subrogation rights. A disability insurance policy subject to this chapter may contain a provision providing that, to the extent necessary for reimbursement of benefits paid to or on behalf of the insured, the insurer is entitled to subrogation, as provided for in 2-18-902, against a judgment or recovery received by the insured from a third party found liable for a wrongful act or omission that caused the injury necessitating benefit payments.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1987.**

2-18-902. Notice — shared costs of third-party action — limitation. (1) If an insured intends to institute an action for damages against a third party, the insured shall give the insurer reasonable notice of the intention to institute the action.

(2) The insured may request that the insurer pay a proportionate share of the reasonable costs of the third-party action, including attorney fees.

(3) An insurer may elect not to participate in the cost of the action. If an election is made, the insurer waives 50% of any subrogation rights granted to it by 2-18-901.

(4) The insurer's right of subrogation granted in 2-18-901 may not be enforced until the injured insured has been fully compensated for the insured's injuries.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 365, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 127, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Part 10
Grievance Procedures

2-18-1001. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 56, L. 2021.

History: **En. 32-2505.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 1975; Sec. 32-2505.1, R.C.M. 1947; En. 32-2505 by Sec. 2, Ch. 28, L. 1974; Sec. 32-2505, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2505(part), 32-2505.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 128, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

2-18-1002. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 56, L. 2021.

History: **(1)En. 32-2505 by Sec. 2, Ch. 28, L. 1974; Sec. 32-2505, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 32-2505.2 by Sec. 2, Ch. 377, L. 1975; Sec. 32-2505.2, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2505(part), 32-2505.2; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 90, L. 1995.**

2-18-1003. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 56, L. 2021.

History: **En. 32-2505.3 by Sec. 3, Ch. 377, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2505.3.**

2-18-1004 through 2-18-1010 reserved.

2-18-1011. Classification or compensation grievance — retaliation — hearing on complaint. (1) An employee or the employee's representative affected by the implementation of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter is entitled to file a complaint with the board of personnel appeals provided for in 2-15-1705 and to be heard under the provisions of a grievance procedure to be prescribed by the board.

(2) Direct or indirect interference, restraint, coercion, or retaliation by an employee's supervisor or the agency for which the employee works or by any other agency of state government against an employee because the employee has filed or attempted to file a complaint with the board is also a basis for a complaint and entitles the employee to file a complaint with the board and to be heard under the provisions of the grievance procedure prescribed by the board.

(3) An action that attempts to revise the determination of an employee's classification and that involves an employee exercising a right conferred by 2-18-1011 through 2-18-1013 in a way that would adversely affect the employee prior to final resolution or entry of a final order with respect to the action is presumed to be interference, restraint, coercion, or retaliation prohibited by subsection (2) unless the review was commenced or scheduled prior to filing of the appeal and was not prompted by the grievance appealed from. The presumption is rebuttable.

History: **En. 82A-1014 by Sec. 15, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 545, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1014(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 129, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 430, L. 2017.**

2-18-1012. Grievance procedure. If, upon the preponderance of the evidence taken at the hearing, the board is of the opinion that the employee is aggrieved, it may issue an order to the appropriate agency or agencies of state government to require an action to resolve the employee's grievance. In a hearing, the board is not bound by statutory or common-law rules of evidence. The hearing may be conducted by telephone or by videoconference.

History: En. 82A-1014 by Sec. 15, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 545, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1014(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 90, L. 1995.

2-18-1013. Enforcement of board order — petition to district court. The board or the employee may petition for the enforcement of the board's order and for appropriate temporary relief and shall file in the district court the record of the proceedings. Upon the filing of the petition, the district court shall have jurisdiction of the proceeding. Thereafter, the district court shall set the matter for hearing. After the hearing, the district court shall issue its order granting such temporary or permanent relief as it considers just and proper. No objection that has not been raised before the board shall be considered by the court unless the failure or neglect to raise the objection is excused because of extraordinary circumstances. The findings of the board with respect to questions of fact, if supported by substantial evidence on the record considered as a whole, shall be conclusive.

History: En. 82A-1014 by Sec. 15, Ch. 440, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 545, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82A-1014(4)(d).

Part 11
Employee Incentive Program

2-18-1101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency head" means a director, commissioner, or constitutional officer in charge of an executive, legislative, or judicial branch agency or an agency of the Montana university system. The term includes the president or other person in charge of a public retirement board or a unit of the Montana university system.

(2) "Department" means the department of administration provided for in 2-15-1001.

(3) (a) "Employee" means an employee of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch or the Montana university system.

(b) The term does not include a student intern, as defined in 2-18-101.

(4) "Group or team of employees" means a group, team, or work unit of employees working cooperatively.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 552, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 103, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 75, L. 2005.

2-18-1102. Creation of program. The department shall develop a statewide employee incentive award program to appropriately recognize and monetarily reward individual state employees and groups or teams of employees for documented innovations that contribute to the efficiency, economy, or other improvement of state government by reducing the costs or improving the effectiveness of governmental operations.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 103, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 23, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 417, L. 1997.

2-18-1103. Powers and duties of department. The department shall:

(1) adopt rules to implement this part;

(2) develop model guidelines and promotional materials to assist agencies in implementing this part; and

(3) prepare and submit to the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee by September 15 in the year preceding the regular legislative session and in the manner provided in 5-11-210 a list of awards granted under 2-18-1106 and the corresponding savings to the state and improvements in the effectiveness of state government.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 552, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 103, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 23, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 155, L. 2013.

2-18-1104. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 23, Sp. L. November 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 552, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 103, L. 1985.

2-18-1105. Eligibility for award. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), an employee, a group or team of employees, or a nonemployee is eligible for an incentive award for innovations that:

(a) significantly contribute to achievements or outcomes eliminating or reducing an agency's expenditures; or

(b) improve the effectiveness of state government or improve services to the public by permitting more work to be accomplished within an agency without increasing the cost of governmental operations.

(2) To be eligible for an incentive award, an employee, a group or team of employees, or a nonemployee must receive approval from agency management for immediate implementation, for a short-term test of an idea or innovation, or for the development and testing of a prototype that could make significant improvement in the way an agency conducts business by addressing fiscal, customer service, efficiency, or safety issues.

(3) A director, as defined in 2-15-102, or a legislator is not eligible for the incentive award provided for under this part.

(4) Suggestions relating to an agency are eligible for an award from that agency's agency head even if the employee or group or team of employees, or one or more members of the group or team, do not work for that agency.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 552, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 103, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 23, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 417, L. 1997.

2-18-1106. Agency head to grant award — amount and source of award. (1) An agency head may grant an incentive award to an employee, a group or team of employees, or a nonemployee who has made a significant contribution to achievements or outcomes in the agency, as enumerated in 2-18-1105. An employee or a member of a group or team of employees need not be employed by the agency that benefits from the achievement or outcome and whose agency head grants the award in order to be granted an award.

(2) If agency management determines that an idea, innovation, or prototype that has been implemented will result in cost savings or improvements to agency operations, the agency head, at the agency head's discretion, may grant an incentive award of up to $500, up to 40 hours paid leave time, or other nonmonetary recognition.

(3) If an achievement or outcome produces cost savings that can be measured after the savings are actually realized or that can be accurately projected for a period of 12 months following implementation, a larger award may be granted by the agency head. The amount of the award must be determined by the agency head but may not exceed:

(a) 10% of the first $100,000 of cost savings actually realized or accurately projected; plus

(b) 5% of the next $100,000 of cost savings actually realized or accurately projected; plus

(c) 2% of the next $100,000 of cost savings actually realized or accurately projected.

(4) (a) If the award is to be divided between two or more persons, the agency head shall determine the amount each person is to receive.

(b) Each person must be paid in one lump sum no later than 90 days after the end of the 12-month period following implementation of the suggestion. However, an agency head may pay an award at any time that savings can be determined. The agency head shall pay the award from the agency's budget. This award is in addition to the recipient's regular compensation or leave time.

(5) Within 30 days after the end of each fiscal year, each agency shall submit to the department a list of the number of incentive awards granted, to whom each award was granted, the estimated value of each achievement or outcome, and the amount of each award.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 552, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1983; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 103, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 23, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 23, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 417, L. 1997.

2-18-1107. Salary increase based on elimination of position. An agency head, as defined in 2-18-1101, may, with the approval of the approving authority, as defined in 17-7-102, increase the salary for one or more positions in the agency by the amount of the salary for a position that was permanently eliminated by the agency within the last 30 days. However, an increased salary may not exceed the market midpoint for that position determined under Title 2, chapter 18, part 3. If an eliminated position's salary is redistributed under this section, the agency may not be given an increased appropriation in regard to the eliminated position under 2-15-112(2)(e). An increase for an employee who is in a collective bargaining unit is a negotiable subject under 39-31-305.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 23, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 430, L. 2017.

Part 12
State Employee Protection Act

2-18-1201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "State Employee Protection Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 477, L. 1993.

2-18-1202. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" has the meaning provided in 2-18-101 but does not include the Montana university system.

(2) (a) "Employee" means a person employed by the state who has achieved permanent status, as defined in 2-18-101, or officers and employees of the legislative branch and teachers under the authority of the department of corrections or department of public health and human services who have been employed for at least 6 continuous months.

(b) The term does not include a student intern, as defined in 2-18-101.

(3) "Privatization" means contracting with the private sector to provide a service normally or traditionally provided directly by an employee of an agency.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 477, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 524, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 75, L. 2005.

2-18-1203. General protection. (1) An employee whose position is eliminated as a result of privatization, reorganization of an agency, closure of or a reduction in force at an agency, or other actions by the legislature is entitled to:

(a) access to any job retraining and career development programs provided by the state through the service delivery areas dislocated worker programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 29 U.S.C. 3101, et seq., provided that the employee begins participating in a program within 1 year after the elimination of the employee's position; and

(b) inclusion in a special job register from which all agencies may attempt to hire employees prior to seeking applications from the general public. Nothing in this section requires an agency to attempt to hire employees from the special job register prior to seeking applications from the general public. An employee's eligibility to participate in the job register terminates 2 years from the effective date of the employee's layoff or 2 years from the date of the employee's completion of job training provided under subsection (1)(a), whichever is later.

(2) Each state agency shall pay to the department of labor and industry a set amount that is equal to the department's average cost of providing the retraining and development services for state employees in the previous fiscal year for each involuntarily terminated state employee who requests access to any job training and career development program provided by the department.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 477, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 524, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 502, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 2017.

2-18-1204. Salary and benefits protection — employee transfer. An employee whose position is eliminated as a result of privatization, reorganization of an agency, closure of or a reduction in force at an agency, or other actions by the legislature and who is subsequently transferred to a different position in a state agency is entitled to:

(1) the same hourly salary as previously received if the new position is the same classification or higher as the one previously held;

(2) retain all accrued sick leave credits;

(3) retain, cash out, or use accrued vacation leave credits to extend the employee's effective layoff date; and

(4) relocation expenses as provided in agency policy.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 477, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 524, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 7, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 430, L. 2017.

2-18-1205. Continuation of health insurance and employer contributions. (1) During the period of unemployment as a result of privatization, reorganization of an agency, closure of or a reduction in force at an agency, or other actions by the legislature, the employee is entitled to remain covered by the state's group health insurance plan and to the continuation of the employer's contribution to the employee's group health insurance for 6 months from the effective date of layoff or until the employee becomes employed, whichever occurs first.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "agency" includes the Montana university system.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 477, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 524, L. 1995.

2-18-1206. Notice. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), an employee and the employee's collective bargaining unit, if any, must be notified as soon as possible prior to privatization, reorganization of any agency, or closure of or a reduction in force at an agency. When 25 or more employees are affected, the notice must be given at least 60 days prior to the privatization, reorganization, agency closure, or reduction in force.

(2) When privatization, reorganization, an agency closure, or a reduction in force affects fewer than 25 employees, each employee affected must be notified at least 14 days prior to the privatization, reorganization, agency closure, or reduction in force.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 477, L. 1993.

Part 13
Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association Act

2-18-1301. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Sick leave — death benefit payout, 2-18-618.

2-18-1302. Purpose and intent. The legislature finds that escalating health care expenses, particularly the increasing cost of medical treatment and health insurance, constitute a substantial financial burden during and after an employee's working career. The purpose of this part is to provide a means by which public employers may contribute to a plan established under a qualified tax-exempt trust organization to assist public employees and their dependents with paying for qualified health care expenses. Under the plan, employer contributions, investment earnings, and payments for qualified health care expenses are tax-exempt. The legislature also finds that centralized statewide administration offers a consistent approach and is more cost-effective, especially for smaller employers. However, the legislature does not intend to prohibit an employer from establishing a similar program as an alternative or in addition to participation in the statewide program provided for in this part. Additionally, the legislature intends to facilitate a grassroots process to determine plan participation.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 272, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2021.

2-18-1303. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Common association" means an association of employees established pursuant to 2-18-1310 for the purposes of employer and employee participation in the plan.

(2) "Contracting employer" means an employer who, pursuant to 2-18-1310, has contracted with the department to participate in the plan.

(3) "Department" means the department of administration established in 2-15-1001.

(4) "Dependent" means the tax-qualified dependent or child of the participant as determined under section 105(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 105(b).

(5) (a) "Employee" means a person employed by an employer.

(b) The term does not include an independent contractor, a person hired by the employer under a personal services contract, or a student intern, as defined in 2-18-101.

(6) "Employer" means a legally constituted department, board, commission, or any other administrative unit of state government, a county, an incorporated city or town, or any other political subdivision of the state, including a school district, or a unit of the university system.

(7) "Health care expense trust account" or "account" means an account established for the payment of qualified health care expenses under the plan.

(8) "Member" means an employee whose work unit voted to establish a common association.

(9) "Participant" means a member who terminates employment and for whom an account is established.

(10) "Plan" means the employee welfare benefit plan established under section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(9), pursuant to 2-18-1304.

(11) "Qualified health care expenses" means expenses paid by a participant for medical care, as defined by 26 U.S.C. 213(d), for the participant or the participant's spouse or dependent.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 272, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 75, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 96, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 128, L. 2021.

2-18-1304. Statewide employee welfare benefit plan established — health care expense trust accounts — investment of funds — account access — administrative expenses. (1) The department shall establish, through contracted services, a plan under a tax-exempt entity that qualifies as a voluntary employees' beneficiary association trust pursuant to section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(9). The plan must provide participants with individual health care expense trust accounts to pay qualified health care expenses.

(2) The department shall determine what investment vehicles will be offered to plan participants. Each plan participant is entitled to direct the investment of funds in the participant's account among the investment vehicles offered. The department shall provide for a default investment vehicle if a participant fails to direct how funds are to be invested.

(3) At any time after a participant's account has been established, the participant may access funds in the account in a manner prescribed by the department. The funds may be accessed only for the payment of qualified health care expenses and until the funds have been exhausted.

(4) Administrative expenses must be paid by the plan in a manner prescribed by the department.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 272, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 128, L. 2021.

2-18-1305. Rulemaking authority. The department shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this part. The rules must be designed to allow the plan to conform to federal law.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 272, L. 2001.

2-18-1306 through 2-18-1308 reserved.

2-18-1309. Administration of plan — content of plan document. (1) The department shall provide for the administration of the plan in the manner required to satisfy applicable tax qualification requirements of the Internal Revenue Code and other applicable federal law. If a statutory provision of this part conflicts with a qualification requirement of the Internal Revenue Code or other applicable federal law and any consequent federal regulations, the provision is either ineffective or must be interpreted to conform with the federal qualification requirements.

(2) For purposes of qualification pursuant to section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(9), and any other applicable internal revenue service laws and regulations, the plan document is composed of this part, the rules adopted by the department to implement this part, and the regulations adopted by the internal revenue service to implement section 105 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 105.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 272, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 128, L. 2021.

2-18-1310. Plan membership election — contract for employer participation. (1) At the request of at least 25% of its employees, an employer may facilitate an election by all the employer's employees or by a specified group of the employer's employees to determine whether those employees will form an association for the purpose of participating in the plan. An election among employees on whether to form an association may also be initiated by the employer.

(2) If a majority of the employees voting on the question vote to become plan members, then, in a manner prescribed by the department:

(a) all of the employees that were eligible to vote on the question and any employees subsequently hired into the positions covered under the terms and conditions of the election must be formed as a common association for the purpose of plan membership and the employees must become plan members; and

(b) the employer shall enter into a contract with the department to participate in the plan and must become a contracting employer.

(3) A common association shall operate in a manner prescribed by the department unless the association is disbanded in a manner prescribed by the department.

(4) A contracting employer shall provide to the department, or the appropriate administering entity, the information necessary for the plan's operation. The department, in partnership with a contracting employer, shall provide to plan members the information necessary to actively participate in the plan.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 272, L. 2001.

2-18-1311. Contributions of unused sick and vacation leave — other contributions not prohibited. (1) When the member's employment is terminated, the member's unused sick leave balance may be converted to a tax-free employer contribution to the participant account pursuant to this section.

(2) The amount of the employer contribution to a participant's account for hours converted under this section must be equal to one-fourth of the pay attributed to the accumulated sick leave. The attributable pay must be computed on the basis of the employee's salary or wage at the time that the sick leave is converted. A participant may not later receive as sick leave credit or as a lump-sum payment amounts contributed to the participant account pursuant to this section.

(3) At termination of employment, the member's unused vacation leave balance may be converted to a tax-free employer contribution to the participant account as provided for in 2-18-617.

(4) This section does not prohibit an employer from making other contributions permitted by statute and federal law or from entering into an agreement with a participant for employer contributions to a participant account in addition to the contributions provided for under this section.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 272, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 503, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 128, L. 2021.

2-18-1312. Tax exemption. Employer contributions into an account, the accumulation of interest or other earnings in an account, and payments from an account for qualified health care expenses are tax-exempt, as provided under applicable federal laws and regulations to the extent that the plan is qualified under applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 272, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 503, L. 2021.

2-18-1313. Death benefits. (1) Upon proof of a participant's death, if the deceased participant's account retains funds, the participant's surviving spouse or dependent is entitled to use the account for qualified health care expenses incurred by the participant until the participant's death or incurred by the surviving spouse or a surviving dependent until loss of tax-qualified status.

(2) The department shall prescribe by rule the disposition of a deceased participant's account if the participant has no surviving spouse or dependent.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 272, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 128, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 19
TERMINATION OF STATE AGENCIES

Part 1 — Procedure

2-19-101. Definitions.
2-19-102. Closing out defunct state agencies — procedures.

Part 1
Procedure

2-19-101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of administration created in 2-15-1001.

(2) "State agency" means any state office, board, bureau, commission, department, or agency but does not include any agency operated by a city, town, county, school district, or other political subdivision.

History: En Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 1979.

2-19-102. Closing out defunct state agencies — procedures. Unless otherwise provided by law, the following procedures apply whenever a state agency is terminated by operation of law, is abolished by executive or legislative action, ceases to function, or otherwise becomes defunct:

(1) The department becomes the receiver of all real and personal property of the agency, including all books, records, and accounts, and shall determine all remaining assets and liabilities of the defunct agency. The department shall inventory all personal property of the agency and may reassign the property to other state agencies or otherwise dispose of it as provided in Title 18, chapter 6, part 1.

(2) The department must pay any creditors of the defunct state agency from the funds remaining in the agency's current budget. However, if insufficient funds remain to settle all outstanding accounts, then the department shall prorate all claims in the ratio of their amount to the total cash available. The department shall seek a supplemental appropriation from the next regular session of the legislature to pay the remaining balance of the creditors' claims. Any funds remaining after payment to all creditors of the defunct agency must be deposited by the department into the general fund.

History: En Sec. 2, Ch. 333, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Effect of reorganization of Executive Branch, 2-15-131 through 2-15-137.

CHAPTER 20
ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS WITH STATE AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
(Repealed)

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Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

2-20-101. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1999.

2-20-102. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 365, L. 1999.

2-20-103. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 365, L. 1999.

2-20-104. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 365, L. 1999.

2-20-105. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 365, L. 1999.

2-20-106. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 365, L. 1999.

2-20-107. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 365, L. 1999.

2-20-108. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 365, L. 1999.

2-20-109. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 365, L. 1999.

2-20-110. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 365, L. 1999.**

2-20-111. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2007.
History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 365, L. 1999.**

CHAPTERS 21 THROUGH 88 RESERVED

CHAPTER 89
MONTANA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL
(Repealed and Terminated)

Part 1 — Statehood Centennial Office and Commission (Terminated)

Part 2 — Centennial Acre (Repealed)

Part 3 — Centennial Plates (Terminated)

Part 1
Statehood Centennial Office and Commission (Terminated)

2-89-101. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 664, L. 1985.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 664, L. 1985.**

2-89-102. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 664, L. 1985.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 664, L. 1985.**

2-89-103 and 2-89-104 reserved.

2-89-105. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 664, L. 1985.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 664, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1989.**

2-89-106. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 664, L. 1985.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 664, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1989.**

2-89-107. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 664, L. 1985.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 664, L. 1985.**

2-89-108. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 664, L. 1985.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 1989.**

2-89-109. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 664, L. 1985.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 1989.**

Part 2
Centennial Acre (Repealed)

2-89-201. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 489, L. 1985.**

2-89-202. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 489, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 10, L. 1993.**

2-89-203 and 2-89-204 reserved.

2-89-205. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 489, L. 1985.**

2-89-206. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 489, L. 1985.**

2-89-207. Repealed. Sec. 85, Ch. 10, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 489, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 602, L. 1987.**

2-89-208. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 489, L. 1985.**

2-89-209. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 489, L. 1985.**

Part 3
Centennial Plates
(Terminated)

2-89-301. Terminated. Sec. 4, Ch. 654, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 674, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 10, L. 1993.**

2-89-302. Terminated. Sec. 4, Ch. 654, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 674, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 383, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 654, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 10, L. 1993.**

2-89-303. Terminated. Sec. 4, Ch. 654, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 674, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 383, L. 1989.**

TITLE 3

JUDICIARY, COURTS

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1. Courts and Judicial Officers Generally.
2. Supreme Court.
Chapters 3 and 4 reserved.
5. District Courts.
6. Municipal Courts.
7. Water Courts.
Chapters 8 and 9 reserved.
10. Justices' Courts.
11. City Courts.
12. Small Claims Courts.
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CHAPTER 1

COURTS AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS GENERALLY

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3-1-1606 through 3-1-1609 reserved.
3-1-1610. Judiciary branch account created.

Part 1
Courts — Definitions and General Powers

Part Cross-References

Establishment of court system, Art. VII, Mont. Const.

3-1-101. The several courts of this state. The following are courts of justice of this state:

(1) the court of impeachment, which is the senate;

(2) the supreme court;

(3) the district courts;

(4) the municipal courts;

(5) the justices' courts;

(6) the city courts and such other courts of limited jurisdiction as the legislature may establish in any incorporated city or town.

History: En. Secs. 2, 6, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Secs. 6238, 6240, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 8784, 8786, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Secs. 33, 36; re-en. Secs. 8784, 8786, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-101, 93-103(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 466, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Establishment of court system, Art. VII, Mont. Const.
Supreme Court, Title 3, ch. 2.
District Court, Title 3, ch. 5.
Municipal Court, Title 3, ch. 6.
Water Court, Title 3, ch. 7.
Justice's Court, Title 3, ch. 10.
City Court, Title 3, ch. 11.
Justice of the Peace as City Judge, 3-11-205.
Impeachment, Title 5, ch. 5, part 4.

3-1-102. Courts of record. The court of impeachment, the supreme court, the district courts, the workers' compensation court, the municipal courts, the justices' courts of record, and the city courts of record are courts of record.

History: En. Sec. 3, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6239, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8785, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 34; re-en. Sec. 8785, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 429, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-102; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 557, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 2011.

3-1-103 through 3-1-110 reserved.

3-1-111. Powers respecting conduct of business. Every court has power to:

(1) preserve and enforce order in its immediate presence;

(2) enforce order in the proceedings before it or before a person or persons empowered to conduct a judicial investigation under its authority;

(3) provide for the orderly conduct of proceedings before it or its officers;

(4) compel obedience to its judgments, orders, and process and to the orders of a judge out of court in an action or proceeding pending therein;

(5) control, in furtherance of justice, the conduct of its ministerial officers and of all other persons in any manner connected with a judicial proceeding before it in every other matter appertaining thereto;

(6) compel the attendance of persons to testify in an action or proceeding pending therein in the cases and manner provided in this code;

(7) administer oaths in an action or proceeding pending therein and in all other cases where it may be necessary in the exercise of its powers and duties;

(8) amend and control its process and orders so as to make them conformable to law and justice.

History: En. Sec. 452, p. 134, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 609, p. 159, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 529, p. 178, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 529, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 546, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 110, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6292, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8844, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 128; re-en. Sec. 8844, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-501.

Cross-References

Officers who may administer oaths, 1-6-101.
Powers of judicial officers as to conduct of proceedings, 3-1-402.
Power to punish for contempt, 3-1-403.
What acts or omissions are contempts, 3-1-501.
Contempts for which Justice of the Peace may punish, 3-10-401.
Contempts for which City Judge may punish, 3-11-303.
Power of subpoena issuance, 26-2-102.

3-1-112. Rules for courts of record. (1) Every court of record may make rules, not inconsistent with the laws of this state, for its own government and the government of its officers. Such rules must not impose any tax or charge upon any legal proceedings or give any allowance to any officers for services.

(2) In case of the failure or refusal of any district court to adopt and promulgate rules of court, the supreme court may, upon the application of any interested person, adopt and promulgate rules for the government of such court. When adopted and promulgated, such rules shall remain in full force and effect until modified or repealed by the authority adopting them.

(3) Rules adopted by any court take effect 30 days after their publication.

(4) Any judge who shall fail or refuse to comply with and carry out in good faith the rules of court adopted by the supreme court, as herein provided for, shall be guilty of a contempt of the supreme court.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 111, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6293, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8845, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 129; re-en. Sec. 8845, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-502, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 112, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6294, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8846, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 130; re-en. Sec. 8846, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-503, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-502, 93-503.

Cross-References

Supreme Court rules of procedure subject to legislative disapproval, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Local rules, 3-2-704.
Noncompliance with lawful process of court — contempt, 45-7-309.

3-1-113. Means to carry jurisdiction into effect. When jurisdiction is, by the constitution or any statute, conferred on a court or judicial officer, all the means necessary for the exercise of such jurisdiction are also given. In the exercise of this jurisdiction, if the course of proceeding is not specifically pointed out by this code, any suitable process or mode of proceeding may be adopted which may appear most conformable to the spirit of this code.

History: En. Sec. 205, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6329, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8882, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 187; re-en. Sec. 8882, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1106; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 21, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Establishment of court system, Art. VII, Mont. Const.

Disputable presumption that court lawfully exercises jurisdiction, 26-1-602.

3-1-114. Definitions. As used in 3-1-115 and this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Document" means all contents in the file or record of any case or matter docketed by a court, including decisions, administrative orders, court records, court books, court minutes and minute books, court dockets, court ledgers, registers of actions, court indexes, and other documents, instruments, or papers required by law to be filed with a court.

(2) "Electronic filing of documents" means the transmission of data to a court by the communication of information that is originally displayed in written form and then converted to digital electronic signals, transformed by computer, and stored by the clerk of the court on microfilm, magnetic tape, optical disc, or other medium.

(3) "Electronic storage of documents" means the recording, storage, retention, maintenance, and reproduction of court documents, using microfilm, microfiche, data processing, computers, or other electronic processes that correctly and legibly store and reproduce documents.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1995.

3-1-115. Electronic filing and storage of documents — rules. (1) The supreme court may make rules establishing procedures for electronic filing of documents and electronic storage of documents.

(2) Courts may, but are not required to, institute procedures for electronic filing of documents and electronic storage of documents to further the efficient administration and operation of the courts. Electronically filed or stored documents may be kept in lieu of any paper documents. Electronic filing of documents and electronic storage of documents must be in conformity with rules adopted by the supreme court.

(3) The provisions of 3-1-114 and this section may not be construed to repeal any other provision of existing law that requires or provides for the maintenance of official written documents, records, dockets, books, ledgers, or proceedings by a court or clerk of the court in those courts that do not institute electronic filing of documents and electronic storage of documents.

(4) The procedures for electronic storage of documents may require but are not limited to the following:

(a) all original documents to be recorded and released into the court's electronic filing and storage system within a specified minimum time period after presentation to the court;

(b) the use of original paper records during the pendency of any legal proceeding;

(c) standards for organizing, identifying, coding, indexing, and reproducing an original document so that an image produced from electronically stored information can be certified as a true and correct copy of the original and can be retrieved rapidly; and

(d) retention of the original documents consistent with other law and security provisions to guard against physical loss, alterations, and deterioration.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 174, L. 1995.

3-1-116 through 3-1-119 reserved.

3-1-120. Court financial accounts. Except for accounts kept in the state treasury or a county treasury, each financial account kept by a court may be kept in an interest-bearing account in a financial institution. The interest earned on the interest-bearing account must be used to help defray the administrative costs of the court.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1999.

3-1-121 through 3-1-124 reserved.

3-1-125. County to provide district court office space. (1) Each county or consolidated city-county government shall provide office, courtroom, and other space for district court operations.

(2) Costs of providing office, courtroom, and other space for district court operations are a district court expense within the meaning of 7-6-2511.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 585, L. 2001.**

3-1-126. Local government authority to supplement district court budget. A local government may contract with the supreme court administrator's office to provide funds to supplement the budget of a district court in the county's jurisdiction.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 585, L. 2001.**

3-1-127 through 3-1-129 reserved.

3-1-130. Supreme court — adoption of judicial branch personnel plan. (1) The supreme court shall adopt a plan of personnel administration for employees of the judicial branch, other than justices, judges, the supreme court administrator, the librarian of the state law library, and the clerk of the supreme court. The plan must include but not be limited to classification and pay, recruitment and selection, performance appraisal, training, and promotion.

(2) The court administrator appointed under 3-1-701 shall, under the direction of the supreme court, administer the judicial branch personnel plan adopted under this section.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 583, L. 2003.**

Part 2
Seals of Courts

3-1-201. What courts have seals. Each of the following courts shall have a seal:
(1) the supreme court;
(2) the district courts;
(3) the municipal courts.

History: **En. Sec. 462, p. 135, Bannack Stat. re-en. Sec. 585, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 510, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 510, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 527, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 150, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6303, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8857, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 147; re-en. Sec. 8857, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-601; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 21, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Duty of Clerk of Court to keep seal, 3-1-204.
Duty of Supreme Court Clerk to keep seal, 3-2-402.

3-1-202. Seal of supreme court. The seal of the supreme court is circular in form and not less than 1 ¾ inches in diameter, on which are engraved the words "Supreme Court, State of Montana", with the word "Seal" in the center thereof, which seal must be procured by the clerk of the supreme court at the expense of the state; and an impression thereof, certified to by the clerk, must be filed with the secretary of state.

History: **En. Sec. 1, p. 206, L. 1891; re-en. Sec. 151, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6304, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8858, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 148; re-en. Sec. 8858, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-602.**

Cross-References

Duty of Supreme Court Clerk to keep seal, 3-2-402.

3-1-203. Seals of district courts. The seals of the district courts are circular, not less than 1 ¾ inches in diameter, and have in the center the word "Seal" and the following inscription surrounding the same: ".... District Court, ... County, Montana", inserting the number of the district and the name of the county; which seal must be procured by the clerk of the court at the expense of the county and an impression thereof, certified by the clerk, filed with the secretary of state.

History: **En. Sec. 2, p. 206, L. 1891; re-en. Sec. 152, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6305, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8859, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 149; re-en. Sec. 8859, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-603.**

Cross-References

Fee for certificate with seal, 25-1-201.

3-1-204. Clerk of court to keep seal. The clerk of the court must keep the seal thereof.

History: **En. Sec. 153, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6306, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8860, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 152; re-en. Sec. 8860, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-604.**

Cross-References

Duty of Supreme Court Clerk to keep seal, 3-2-402.
Fee for certificate with seal, 25-1-201.

3-1-205. Seal of municipal court. The municipal court shall have and use a seal, which seal shall be similar to the seal of the district court, except as to the name of the court.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.6, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1706(part).

3-1-206. Documents requiring seals. Unless otherwise specifically required, the seal of a court need not be affixed to any proceeding therein or document except to:

(1) a writ;

(2) the certificate of probate of a will or of the appointment of a personal representative or guardian;

(3) the authentication of a copy of a record or other proceeding of a court or an officer thereof or of a copy of a document on file in the office of the clerk.

History: En. Sec. 464, p. 135, Bannack Stat.; repealed Sec. 751, p. 187, Cod. Stat. 1871; en. Sec. 154, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6307, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8861, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 153; re-en. Sec. 8861, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-605; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

Part 3
General Rules Regarding Procedure

3-1-301. Days on which courts may be held. Courts of justice may be held and judicial business transacted on any day, except as provided in 3-1-302.

History: En. Sec. 466, p. 136, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 588, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 513, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 513, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 530, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 120, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6295, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8849, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 133; re-en. Sec. 8849, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-506.

3-1-302. Nonjudicial day. (1) No court may be open nor may any judicial business be transacted on legal holidays, as provided for in 1-1-216, and on a day appointed by the president of the United States or by the governor of this state for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday, except for the following purposes:

(a) to give, upon its request, instructions to a jury when deliberating on its verdict;

(b) to receive a verdict or discharge a jury;

(c) for the exercise of the powers of a magistrate in a criminal action or in a proceeding of a criminal nature.

(2) Injunctions, writs of prohibition, and habeas corpus may be issued and served on any day.

History: En. Sec. 467, p. 136, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 589, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 514, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 514, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 531, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 121, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6296, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8850, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 134; re-en. Sec. 8850, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 420, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-507.

Cross-References

Issuance of injunctions and writs of habeas corpus and prohibition on nonjudicial days, 3-5-302.

City Court limitation on business — criminal only, 3-11-101.

3-1-303. Adjournments from nonjudicial days. If any day mentioned in 3-1-302 happens to be the day appointed for the holding or sitting of a court or to which it is adjourned, it must be considered appointed for or adjourned to the next day.

History: En. Sec. 467, p. 136, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 589, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 514, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 514, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 531, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 122, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6297, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8851, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 135; re-en. Sec. 8851, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-508.

3-1-304. Adjournment for absence of judge. If no judge attends before noon on the day appointed for the holding or sitting of a court or on a day to which it may have been adjourned, the sheriff or clerk may adjourn the same until the next day at 10 a.m. If no judge attends on that day before noon, the sheriff or clerk may adjourn the same until the following day at the same hour and so on from day to day for 6 days unless the judge, by written order or telegram, directs it to be adjourned to some day certain, fixed in said order or telegram, in which case it must be so adjourned.

History: En. Sec. 589, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 514, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 514, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 531, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 130, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6298, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8852, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 139; re-en. Sec. 8852, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-509.

Cross-References

Duty of Supreme Court Clerk to adjourn Supreme Court, 3-2-402.

Sheriff to act as crier of District Court, 3-5-407.

3-1-305. Adjournment until next regular term. If no judge attends for 6 days and no written order or telegram be made or sent as provided in 3-1-304, the sheriff or clerk must adjourn the term until the time appointed for the holding of the next regular term.

History: En. Sec. 589, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 514, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 514, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 531, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 131, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6299, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8853, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 140; re-en. Sec. 8853, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-510.

Cross-References

Duty of Supreme Court Clerk to adjourn Supreme Court, 3-2-402.
Sheriff to act as crier of District Court, 3-5-407.

3-1-306 through 3-1-310 reserved.

3-1-311. Proceedings not affected by vacancy in office. No proceeding in any court of justice in an action or special proceeding pending therein is affected by a vacancy in the office of all or any of the judges thereof.

History: En. Sec. 460, p. 135, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 583, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 508, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 508, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 525, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 202, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6326, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8879, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 184; re-en. Sec. 8879, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1103.

3-1-312. Sittings of court to be public. The sittings of every court of justice must be public, except as provided in 3-1-313.

History: En. Sec. 450, p. 134, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 607, p. 159, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 527, p. 178, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 527, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 544, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 100, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6290, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8847, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 124; re-en. Sec. 8847, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-504.

3-1-313. Sittings of court — when private. (1) In an action for dissolution of marriage, criminal conversation, or seduction, the court may direct the trial of any issue of fact joined therein to be private and exclude all persons except the officers of the court, the parties, their witnesses, and counsel.

(2) During the examination of a witness in any cause, the court may, in its discretion, exclude some or all of the other witnesses in the cause.

History: En. Sec. 451, p. 134, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 608, p. 159, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 528, p. 178, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 528, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 545, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 101, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6291, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8848, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 125; re-en. Sec. 8848, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 33, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-505.

Cross-References

Who may sue for whose seduction, 27-1-514.
Cause of action for alienation of affections abolished, 27-1-601.

3-1-314. Proceedings to be in English language. Every written proceeding in a court of justice in this state must be in the English language, and judicial proceedings must be conducted, preserved, and published in no other.

History: En. Sec. 461, p. 135, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 584, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 509, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 509, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 526, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 203, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6327, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8880, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 185; re-en. Sec. 8880, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1104.

Cross-References

English as official and primary language of state and local governments, 1-1-510.

3-1-315. Abbreviations and figures. Such abbreviations as are in common use may be used, and numbers may be expressed by figures or numerals in the customary manner.

History: En. Sec. 461, p. 135, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 584, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 509, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 509, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 526, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 204, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6328, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8881, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 186; re-en. Sec. 8881, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1105.

3-1-316. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 245, L. 1979.

History: En. 93-514 by Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-514.

3-1-317. User surcharge for court information technology — exception. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), all courts of original jurisdiction shall impose:

(a) on a defendant in criminal cases, a $10 user surcharge upon conviction for any conduct made criminal by state statute or upon forfeiture of bond or bail;

(b) on the initiating party in civil and probate cases, a $10 user surcharge at the commencement of each action, proceeding, or filing; and

(c) on each defendant or respondent in civil cases, a $10 user surcharge upon appearance.

(2) If a court determines that a defendant in a criminal case or determines pursuant to 25-10-404 that a party in a civil case is unable to pay the surcharge, the court may waive payment of the surcharge imposed by this section.

(3) The surcharge imposed by this section is not a fee or fine and must be imposed in addition to other taxable court costs, fees, or fines. The surcharge may not be used in determining the jurisdiction of any court.

(4) The amounts collected under this section must be forwarded to the department of revenue for deposit in the state general fund to be used for state funding of court information technology.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 445, L. 2005.

3-1-318. Surcharges upon certain criminal convictions — exception. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), all courts of limited jurisdiction, except small claims courts, shall impose a $10 surcharge on a defendant who is convicted of criminal conduct under state statute or who forfeits bond.

(2) A court may not waive payment of the surcharge unless the court determines that the defendant is unable to pay the surcharge. Inability to pay must be supported by a sworn statement from the defendant demonstrating financial inability to pay without substantial hardship in providing for personal or family necessities. The statement is not admissible in the proceeding unless offered for impeachment purposes and is not admissible in a subsequent prosecution for perjury or false swearing.

(3) The surcharge imposed by this section is not a fee or a fine and must be imposed in addition to other taxable court costs, fees, or fines. The surcharge may not be used in determining the jurisdiction of any court.

(4) The amounts collected under this section must be deposited in the court-appointed special advocate account established in 3-1-707.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 298, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 384, L. 2017.

Part 4
Powers of Judicial Officers

3-1-401. Powers of judges out of court. A justice or judge may exercise out of court all the powers expressly conferred upon a justice or judge, as contradistinguished from the court.

History: En. Sec. 190, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6319, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8872, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 176; re-en. Sec. 8872, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1001.

3-1-402. Powers of judicial officers as to conduct of proceedings. A judicial officer has the power to:

(1) preserve and enforce order in the officer's immediate presence and in proceedings before the officer when the officer is engaged in the performance of official duties;

(2) compel obedience to the officer's official orders, as provided in this code;

(3) compel the attendance of persons to testify in a proceeding before the officer in the cases and manner provided in this code;

(4) administer oaths to persons in a proceeding pending before the officer and in all other cases in which it may be necessary in the exercise of the officer's powers and duties.

History: En. Sec. 191, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6320, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8873, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 177; re-en. Sec. 8873, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1002; amd. Sec. 130, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Administration of oaths, 1-6-101.
Powers respecting conduct of business, 3-1-111.
What acts or omissions are contempts, 3-1-501.
Contempts for which Justice of the Peace may punish, 3-10-401.
Contempts for which City Judge may punish, 3-11-303.
Power of subpoena, 26-2-102.

3-1-403. Power to punish for contempt. For the effectual exercise of the powers conferred by 3-1-402, a judicial officer may punish for contempt in the cases provided in this code.

History: En. Sec. 192, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6321, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8874, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 178; re-en. Sec. 8874, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1003.

Cross-References

Powers respecting conduct of business, 3-1-111.
What acts or omissions are contempts, 3-1-501.
Contempts for which Justice of the Peace may punish, 3-10-401.
Contempts for which City Judge may punish, 3-11-303.
Punishment for contempt, 45-1-104, 45-7-308.
Criminal contempt, 45-7-309.

3-1-404. Taking acknowledgments and affidavits. Each of the justices of the supreme court and judges of the district courts may in any part of the state and each justice of the peace may within the justice's county take and certify:

(1) the proof and acknowledgment of a conveyance of real property or of any other written instrument;

(2) the acknowledgment of satisfaction of a judgment of any court;

(3) an affidavit or deposition to be used in this state.

History: En. Sec. 459, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 582, p. 155, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 507, p. 174, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 507, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 524, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 193, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6322, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8875, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 179; re-en. Sec. 8875, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1004; amd. Sec. 131, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Affidavit defined, 26-1-1001.
Power to take and certify affidavits, 26-1-1003 through 26-1-1006.

3-1-405. Certificate of authenticity of justice's court's certificate of acknowledgment. The certificate of proof or acknowledgment made before a justice of the peace, when used in any county other than that in which the justice resides, must be accompanied by a certificate, under the hand and seal of the clerk and recorder of the county in which the justice resides, setting forth that the justice, at the time of taking the proof or acknowledgment, was authorized to take the proof or acknowledgment and that the clerk and recorder is acquainted with the justice's handwriting and believes that the signature to the original certificate is genuine.

History: En. Sec. 194, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6323, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8876, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8876, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1005; amd. Sec. 132, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Power to take and certify affidavits, 26-1-1003 through 26-1-1006.

Part 5
Contempts

Part Cross-References

Powers of judicial officers as to conduct of proceedings, 3-1-402.
Power to punish for contempt, 3-1-403.
Contempts in Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10, part 4.
Contempts in City Courts, 3-11-303.
Criminal contempts, 45-7-309.
Acknowledgment of instruments required, 70-21-203.

3-1-501. What acts or omissions are contempts — civil and criminal contempt. (1) The following acts or omissions in respect to a court of justice or proceedings in a court of justice are contempts of the authority of the court:

(a) disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior toward the judge while holding the court tending to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;

(b) a breach of the peace, boisterous conduct, or violent disturbance tending to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;

(c) misbehavior in office or other willful neglect or violation of duty by an attorney, counsel, clerk, sheriff, coroner, or other person appointed or elected to perform a judicial or ministerial service;

(d) deceit or abuse of the process or proceedings of the court by a party to an action or special proceeding;

(e) disobedience of any lawful judgment, order, or process of the court;

(f) assuming to be an officer, attorney, or counsel of a court and acting as that individual without authority;

(g) rescuing any person or property in the custody of an officer by virtue of an order or process of the court;

(h) unlawfully detaining a witness or party to an action while going to, remaining at, or returning from the court where the action is on the calendar for trial;

(i) any other unlawful interference with the process or proceedings of a court;

(j) disobedience of a subpoena duly served or refusing to be sworn or answer as a witness;

(k) when summoned as a juror in a court, neglecting to attend or serve as a juror or improperly conversing with a party to an action to be tried at the court or with any other person in relation to the merits of the action or receiving a communication from a party or other person in respect to it without immediately disclosing the communication to the court;

(l) disobedience by a lower tribunal, magistrate, or officer of the lawful judgment, order, or process of a superior court or proceeding in an action or special proceeding contrary to law after the action or special proceeding is removed from the jurisdiction of the lower tribunal, magistrate, or officer.

(2) Disobedience of the lawful orders or process of a judicial officer is also a contempt of the authority of the officer.

(3) A contempt may be either civil or criminal. A contempt is civil if the sanction imposed seeks to force the contemnor's compliance with a court order. A contempt is criminal if the court's purpose in imposing the penalty is to punish the contemnor for a specific act and to vindicate the authority of the court. If the penalty imposed is incarceration, a fine, or both, the contempt is civil if the contemnor can end the incarceration or avoid the fine by complying with a court order and is criminal if the contemnor cannot end the incarceration or avoid the fine by complying with a court order. If the court's purpose in imposing the sanction is to attempt to compel the contemnor's performance of an act, the court shall impose the sanction under 3-1-520 and may not impose a sanction under 45-7-309.

(4) A person may be found guilty of and penalized for criminal contempt by proof beyond a reasonable doubt. The procedures provided in Title 46 apply to criminal contempt prosecutions, except those under 3-1-511.

History: En. Sec. 396, p. 125, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 455, p. 226, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 531, p. 144, Cod. Stat. 1871; en. Sec. 566, p. 185, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 566, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 584, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2170, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7309, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9908, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1209; re-en. Sec. 9908, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9801; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 10, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 496, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Powers respecting conduct of business, 3-1-111.
Powers of judicial officers as to conduct of proceedings, 3-1-402.
Power to punish for contempt, 3-1-403.
Contempts for which Justice of the Peace may punish, 3-10-401.
Contempts for which City Judge may punish, 3-11-303.
Failure of juror to attend, 3-15-321, 25-7-206.
Disobedience of court order to deposit or deliver money or convey real property, 25-8-102.
Violating judgments requiring the performance of specific acts, 25-13-203.
Disobedience to subpoena or refusal to be sworn, answer as witness, or subscribe affidavit or deposition, 26-2-104.
Failure to obey child support order, 40-6-117.
Criminal contempt, 45-7-309.
Disobedience of subpoena issued on behalf of Environmental Quality Council, 75-1-312.

3-1-502. Order refused — subsequent applications prohibited. (1) If an application for an order, made to a judge of a court in which the action or proceeding is pending, is refused in whole or in part or is granted conditionally, no subsequent application for the same order shall be made to any other judge, except of a higher court.

(2) Nothing in this section refers to motions refused for informality in the papers or proceedings necessary to obtain the order or to motions refused with liberty to renew the same.

History: En. Sec. 457, p. 135, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 614, p. 159, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 534, p. 179, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 534, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 551, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 200, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6324, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8877, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 182; re-en. Sec. 8877, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1101.

3-1-503. Effect of violation. A violation of 3-1-502 may be punished as a contempt. An order made contrary thereto may be revoked by the judge who made it or vacated by a judge of the court in which the action or proceeding is pending.

History: En. Sec. 458, p. 135, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 615, p. 159, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 535, p. 179, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 535, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 552, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 201, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6325, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8878, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 183; re-en. Sec. 8878, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1102.

3-1-504. Reentry on property after eviction. A person who is dispossessed of or ejected from or out of any real property by the judgment or process of a court of competent jurisdiction and who, not having the right so to do, reenters into or upon or takes possession of the real property or induces or procures any person not having a right so to do or aids or abets that person to enter into or upon or take possession of the real property is guilty of a contempt of the court that rendered the judgment or that issued the process. Upon conviction for contempt, the court or justice of the peace shall immediately issue an alias process directed to the proper officer requiring that officer to restore the party entitled to the possession of that property, under the original judgment or process, to possession.

History: En. Sec. 567, p. 186, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 567, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 585, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2171, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7310, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9909, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1210; re-en. Sec. 9909, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9802; amd. Sec. 133, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Termination of rental agreement by landlord, 70-24-422.
Reentry by landlord, 70-27-106.

3-1-505 through 3-1-510 reserved.

3-1-511. Procedure — contempt committed in presence of court. When a contempt is committed in the immediate view and presence of the court or judge at chambers and the contemptuous conduct requires immediate action in order to restore order, maintain the dignity or authority of the court, or prevent delay, it may be punished summarily. An order must be made reciting the facts that occurred in the judge's immediate view and presence and adjudging that the person proceeded against is guilty of a contempt and that the person must be punished as prescribed in the order. An order may not be issued unless the person proceeded against has been informed of the contempt and given an opportunity to defend or explain the person's conduct. A person may be adjudged guilty of and penalized for criminal contempt under this section by a fine in an amount not to exceed $500 or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 30 days, or both, and by any other reasonable conditions or restrictions that the court may consider appropriate under the circumstances.

History: En. Sec. 397, p. 125, Bannack Stat.; en. Sec. 456, p. 226, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 532, p. 145, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 568, p. 186, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 568, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 586, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2172, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7311, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9910, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1211; re-en. Sec. 9910, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9803(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 496, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Contempt committed in presence of Justice of the Peace, 3-10-402.

3-1-512. Procedure — contempt not in presence of the court. When the contempt is not committed in the immediate view and presence of the court or judge at chambers, an affidavit of the facts constituting the contempt or a statement of the facts by the referees or arbitrators or other judicial officer shall be presented to the court or judge.

History: En. Sec. 397, p. 125, Bannack Stat.; en. Sec. 456, p. 226, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 532, p. 145, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 568, p. 186, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 568, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 586, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2172, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7311, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9910, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1211; re-en. Sec. 9910, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9803(part).

3-1-513. Warrant — statement of charge. When the contempt is not committed in the immediate view and presence of the court or judge, a warrant may be issued to bring the person charged to the court to answer the charge. The warrant must be accompanied by an adequate and specific statement of the charge. The answer to the charge must be followed by a hearing under 3-1-518.

History: En. Sec. 457, p. 226, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 533, p. 145, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 568, p. 186, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 568, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 586, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2173, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7312, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9911, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1212; re-en. Sec. 9911, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9804; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 496, L. 2001.

3-1-514. Endorsement allowing bail on warrant. Whenever a warrant of attachment is issued pursuant to this part, the court or judge shall direct, by an endorsement on the warrant, that the person charged may be left to bail for the person's appearance in an amount to be specified in the endorsement.

History: En. Sec. 458, p. 226, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 534, p. 145, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 569, p. 186, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 569, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 587, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2174, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7313, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9912, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1213; re-en. Sec. 9912, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9805; amd. Sec. 134, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-515. Arrest and detention by sheriff. Upon executing the warrant of attachment, the sheriff shall keep the person in custody, bring the person before the court or judge, and detain the person until an order is made in the proceeding unless the person arrested is entitled to be discharged as provided in 3-1-516.

History: En. Sec. 459, p. 226, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 535, p. 145, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 570, p. 186, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 570, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 588, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2175, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7314, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9913, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1214; re-en. Sec. 9913, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9806; amd. Sec. 135, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-516. Bail bond — form and conditions of. When a direction to release the person arrested on bail is contained in the warrant of attachment or endorsed on the warrant, the arrested person must be discharged from the arrest upon executing and delivering to the officer, at any time before the return day of the warrant, a written undertaking, with two sufficient sureties, to the effect that the person arrested will appear on the return of the warrant and abide the order of the court or judge or the sureties will pay, as may be directed, the sum specified in the warrant or ordered by the court or the judge.

History: En. Sec. 460, p. 227, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 536, p. 145, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 570, p. 187, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 570, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 588, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2176, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7315, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9914, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1215; re-en. Sec. 9914, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9807; amd. Sec. 136, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Bailable persons, Art. II, sec. 21, Mont. Const.

3-1-517. Return of warrant and undertaking. The officer shall return the warrant of arrest and undertaking, if any, received by the officer from the person arrested by the return day specified in the warrant.

History: En. Sec. 461, p. 227, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 537, p. 145, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 571, p. 187, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 571, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 589, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2177, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7316, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9915, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1216; re-en. Sec. 9915, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9808; amd. Sec. 137, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-518. Hearing on contempt not committed in immediate view and presence of court or judge at chambers. (1) When a person arrested for a contempt not committed in the immediate view and presence of the court or judge at chambers has been brought up or appeared, the court or judge shall proceed to investigate the charge, shall schedule and hold a hearing on any answer that the person arrested may make to the charge, and may examine witnesses for or against the person, for which an adjournment may be had from time to time, if necessary. The judge investigating the charge and scheduling and presiding over the hearing may not be the judge against whom the contempt was allegedly committed, except that if the contempt arose from the violation of an order of the court issued after a hearing on the merits of the subject of the order, the judge who issued the order may punish the contempt or compel compliance with the order unless it is shown that the judge would not be impartial in addressing the contempt.

(2) The charged person must be given a reasonable opportunity to obtain counsel and prepare a defense or explanation prior to the hearing. The charged person may testify and call witnesses at the hearing.

History: En. Sec. 399, p. 126, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 462, p. 227, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 538, p. 145, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 572, p. 187, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 572, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 590, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2178, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7317, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9916, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1217; re-en. Sec. 9916, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9809; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 496, L. 2001.

3-1-519. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 496, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 463, p. 227, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 539, p. 145, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 573, p. 188, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 573, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 591, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2179, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7318, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9917, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1218; re-en. Sec. 9917, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9810.

3-1-520. Penalty to compel performance. When the sanction imposed for a contempt seeks to compel the contemnor to perform an act that is in the power of the contemnor to perform, the contemnor may be incarcerated, subjected to a fine in an amount not to exceed $500, or both, until the contemnor has performed the act. The act must be specified in the warrant of commitment.

History: En. Sec. 400, p. 126, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 464, p. 227, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 540, p. 146, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 574, p. 188, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 574, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 592, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2180, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7319, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9918, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1219; re-en. Sec. 9918, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9811; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 496, L. 2001.

3-1-521. Proceedings when party fails to appear. When the warrant of arrest has been returned served, if the person arrested does not appear on the return day, the court or judge may issue another warrant of arrest or may order the undertaking to be prosecuted, or both. If the undertaking be prosecuted, the measure of damages in the action is the extent of the loss or injury sustained by the aggrieved party by reason of the misconduct for which the warrant was issued and the costs of the proceeding.

History: En. Sec. 467, p. 227, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 542, p. 146, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 576, p. 188, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 576, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 594, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2181, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7320, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9919, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1220; re-en. Sec. 9919, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9812.

3-1-522. Illness sufficient excuse — confinement under arrest. (1) Whenever an officer is required to keep a person arrested on a warrant of attachment in custody and to bring the person before a court or judge, the inability, from illness or otherwise, of the person to attend is sufficient excuse for not bringing the person before the court or judge.

(2) The officer may not confine a person arrested upon a warrant in a prison or otherwise restrain the person of personal liberty, except to the extent necessary to secure the person's personal attendance.

History: En. Sec. 467, p. 227, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 543, p. 146, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 577, p. 188, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 577, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 595, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2182, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7321, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9920, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1221; re-en. Sec. 9920, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9813; amd. Sec. 138, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-523. Judgment and orders in contempt cases final — family law exception. (1) The judgment and orders of the court or judge made in cases of contempt are final and conclusive. Except as provided in subsection (2), there is no appeal, but the action of a district court or judge can be reviewed on a writ of certiorari by the supreme court or a justice of the supreme court and the action of a justice of the peace or other court of limited jurisdiction can be reviewed by the district court or judge of the county in which the justice or judge of the court of limited jurisdiction resides.

(2) A party may appeal a contempt judgment or order in a family law proceeding only when the judgment or order appealed from includes an ancillary order that affects the substantial rights of the parties involved.

History: En. Sec. 468, p. 228, L. 1867; amd. Sec. 544, p. 146, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 578, p. 188, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 578, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 596, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 2183, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7322, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9921, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1222; re-en. Sec. 9921, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9814; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 466, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Powers of Supreme Court Justices individually, 3-2-212.
Writ of review in proceedings for contempt, 27-25-102.

Part 6
Restrictions on Judicial Officers

Cross-References

Code of ethics, Title 2, ch. 2, part 1.

3-1-601. Certain officers not to practice law or administer estates. (1) Except as provided in 3-1-604 and except for a judge pro tempore, a justice or judge of a court of record or clerk of any court may not practice law in any court in this state or act as attorney, agent, or solicitor in the prosecution of any claim or application for lands, pensions, or patent rights or other proceedings before any department of the state or general government or any court of the United States during the justice's or judge's continuance in office.

(2) The court administrator or an assistant may not practice law in any of the courts of this state while holding that position.

(3) A justice or judge of a court of record, except a judge pro tempore, may not act as administrator or executor of any estate for compensation.

History: (1), (3)En. Secs. 454, 455, p. 134, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Secs. 611, 612, p. 159, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Secs. 531, 532, p. 179, L. 1877; re-en. Secs. 531, 532, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Secs. 548, 549, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 181, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6316, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8869, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 171; re-en. Sec. 8869, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1963; Sec. 93-902, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 82-511 by Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 1977; Sec. 82-511, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-511, 93-902(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 415, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 663, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 139, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Judges pro tempore — special masters — scope of authority in criminal and civil cases, 3-5-113.
Clerk, Sheriff, and Coroner not to practice, 37-61-203.

3-1-602. Restrictions on justices of the peace practicing law or taking claims for collection. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a justice of the peace may not:

(a) practice law;

(b) draw contracts, conveyances, or other legal instruments or documents;

(c) take any claim or bill for collection or act as a collection agent in any sense; or

(d) perform any legal duties other than those prescribed by law as the justice's official duties in the conduct of cases and proceedings in the justice's court.

(2) A justice of the peace who is an attorney and who is admitted to practice law before the supreme court of the state of Montana may engage in the general practice of law and practice law in all courts in the state of Montana, except that the justice, the justice's law partner or associate, or a member, associate, or employee of a firm of which the justice is a member may not represent a party involved in a case that is filed or tried in the justice's court or in any justice's court located in the same county as the justice's court or that is appealed from a justice's court in that county.

(3) A justice of the peace who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of malfeasance in office and must be removed from the office of justice of the peace and is disqualified from holding that office.

History: En. Sec. 3, p. 92, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 3114, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4863, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4863, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3605; amd. Sec. 140, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Removal and discipline of judges, Art. VII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Disqualification and substitution of judges — Supreme Court rule, Title 3, ch. 1, part 8.
When Acting Justice of the Peace called in, 3-10-231.
Law partners not to appear on opposite sides, 37-61-414.

3-1-603. Judicial officer of court of record not to have partner practicing law. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a judicial officer of a court of record may not have a partner acting as attorney or counsel in any court of this state.

(2) A partner of either a municipal court judge or a judge pro tempore may act as attorney or counsel in any court of this state except the court of the partner who is a judicial officer.

History: En. Sec. 456, p. 135, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 613, p. 159, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 533, p. 179, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 533, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 550, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 182, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6317, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8870, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 172; re-en. Sec. 8870, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-903; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 415, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 663, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 141, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-604. Restrictions on municipal court judges. A municipal court judge may not practice law before the judge's own municipal court or hold office in a political party during the judge's term of office.

History: En. 11-1704.1 by Sec. 4, Ch. 429, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1704.1; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 415, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 142, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-605. Restrictions on judicial officers after term has expired. A judicial officer, as defined in 1-1-202, after the expiration of the officer's term of office, may not act as attorney or counsel in any action or special proceeding that has been before the officer in the officer's official capacity.

History: En. Sec. 183, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6318, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8871, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8871, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-904; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 143, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-606. Justice of the peace or constable not to purchase judgment. (1) A justice of the peace may not purchase or be interested in the purchase of any judgment or part of a judgment on the justice's docket or on any docket in the justice's possession. A constable may not purchase or be interested in the purchase of any judgment or part of a judgment on the docket of a justice of the peace of the county of which the person is a constable or on a docket in the possession of a justice of the peace in that county.

(2) A violation of subsection (1) is a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 113, p. 205, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 126, p. 298, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 126, 4th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 135, 4th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 197, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8216, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10860, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 97; re-en. Sec. 10860, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-808, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 16-3607 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 253, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3607; amd. Sec. 144, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Punishment for misdemeanor when no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

3-1-607. Supreme court justice or district court judge candidacy for nonjudicial office — resignation required. (1) If a person occupying the office of chief justice or associate justice of the supreme court or judge of a district court of the state of Montana becomes a candidate for election to any elective office under the laws of the state of Montana other than a judicial position, the person shall immediately, or in any event at or before the time when the person is required to file as a candidate for the office in any primary, special, or general election, resign from the office of chief justice, associate justice, or district court judge.

(2) The resignation becomes effective immediately upon its delivery to the proper officer or superior.

(3) The resignation requirement does not apply when the person is a bona fide candidate for reelection to the identical office currently occupied by the person or for another judicial position.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-219(1); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 3, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 145, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Forfeiture of judicial position by filing for elective public office, Art. VII, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Investigation of judicial officers, 3-1-1106 through 3-1-1111, 3-1-1121 through 3-1-1126.

3-1-608. Forced vacancy. In the event of a failure to resign, the office of chief justice, associate justice, or district judge automatically becomes vacant and the former occupant has no further right, power, or authority therein for any purpose and no right to any emoluments thereof, notwithstanding the fact that a successor is not appointed or elected. The vacancy becomes operative to deprive the person of the emoluments of the office in order to carry out the policy of this section and 3-1-607.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-219(2).

Cross-References

Selection of Supreme Court Justices and District Court Judges, Art. VII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Investigation of judicial officers, 3-1-1106 through 3-1-1111, 3-1-1121 through 3-1-1126.
Election of Supreme Court Justices, 3-2-101.
Election of District Court Judges, 3-5-201.

3-1-609. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 433, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 494, L. 2021.

3-1-610. Restrictions on judicial officers presiding over matters in which they have previously asserted position. (1) This section applies to all judicial officers, as defined in 1-1-202.

(2) Judicial officers may not participate in any action or proceeding involving the constitutionality of a provision of a bill if:

(a) the judicial officer has appeared before the Montana legislature or otherwise contacted a legislator or another governmental entity in support or opposition of a bill involving the same legislation if it is at issue in a case in which the judicial officer presides;

(b) the judicial officer has served on a committee or group designed to evaluate legislation when the committee or group expressed support or opposition on a bill during the judicial officer's service on the committee or other group and a case involving the same legislation is pending before the judicial officer; or

(c) the judicial officer has publicly supported or opposed an issue or bill at the request of the Montana judges association or another entity and a case involving the legislation is pending before the judicial officer.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 2021.**

3-1-611. Judicial conflict of interest — recusal — definitions. (1) Any party to a proceeding may request that the judicial officer assigned to the proceeding be recused if an opposing party or lawyer or a lawyer's law firm representing an opposing party meets the criteria in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b):

(a) the judicial officer has received one or more combined contributions totaling the maximum amount allowable under 13-37-216 from a lawyer or party to the proceeding in an election that was held within the previous 6 years; or

(b) a lawyer, the lawyer's law firm, or party to the proceeding has made one or more contributions directly or indirectly to a political committee or other entity that engaged in independent expenditures that supported the judicial officer or opposed the judicial officer's opponent in an election that was held within the previous 6 years if the total combined amount of the contributions exceeds $10,000 for a candidate for a supreme court office or $5,000 for a candidate for any other judicial office.

(2) The moving party shall provide sufficient facts to demonstrate that the criteria in subsection (1) have been met.

(3) Upon receipt of the motion and the information required by subsection (2), the judicial officer shall recuse.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "contribution" has the meaning provided in 13-1-101; and

(b) "judicial officer" has the meaning provided in 1-1-202.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 433, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 4, 2023.

Applicability: Section 5, Ch. 433, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to contributions made on or after [the effective date of this act] and to actions commenced on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective May 4, 2023.

Part 7
Court Administrator

Part Cross-References

Fiscal administration for payment of District Court expenses, 3-5-902.

3-1-701. Office of court administrator — appointment and term of office. There is established the office of court administrator. The supreme court shall appoint a court administrator. The court administrator holds the position at the pleasure of the court.

History: **En. 82-510 by Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-510; amd. Sec. 146, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

3-1-702. Duties. The court administrator is the administrative officer of the court. Under the direction of the supreme court, the court administrator shall:

(1) prepare and present judicial budget requests to the legislature, including the costs of the state-funded district court program;

(2) collect, compile, and report statistical and other data relating to the business transacted by the courts and provide the information to the legislature on request and, if requested, in accordance with 5-11-210;

(3) to the extent possible, provide that current and future information technology applications are coordinated and compatible with the standards and goals of the executive branch as expressed in the state strategic information technology plan provided for in 2-17-521;

(4) recommend to the supreme court improvements in the judiciary;

(5) administer legal assistance for indigent victims of domestic violence, as provided in 3-2-714;

(6) administer state funding for district courts, as provided in chapter 5, part 9;

(7) administer the pretrial program provided for in 3-1-708;

(8) administer the treatment court support account provided for in 46-1-1115; and

(9) administer the judicial branch personnel plan.

History: En. 82-512 by Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-512; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 704, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 445, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 376, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 390, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 413, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 497, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 497, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

User surcharge for court information technology, 3-1-317.
Inclusion of judicial budget requests in Governor's budget, 17-7-122.
Fees of Clerk of District Court, 25-1-201.

3-1-703. Cooperation of court officers. All court officers, including clerks of district courts, shall comply with requests made by the court administrator for information and statistical and financial data bearing on the business transacted by the courts.

History: En. 82-513 by Sec. 4, Ch. 396, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-513.

3-1-704 through 3-1-706 reserved.

3-1-707. Court-appointed special advocate account. (1) There is a court-appointed special advocate account in the state special revenue fund. There must be paid into this account the fees collected pursuant to 3-1-318. The money in the account must be used solely for the purpose of providing funding for court-appointed special advocates.

(2) The supreme court administrator shall establish procedures for the distribution and accountability of money in the account. The supreme court administrator may designate nonprofit organizations that ordinarily provide special advocate services to receive or administer the distribution of the fund.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 384, L. 2017.

3-1-708. Pretrial program — rulemaking. (1) Within the limits of available funds, the office of court administrator shall develop and administer a pretrial program for misdemeanor or felony defendants that includes the use of a validated pretrial risk assessment tool.

(2) The office of court administrator may use program funds to:

(a) develop, implement, and administer the pretrial program; and

(b) make allocations to counties or organizations contracting with a county to provide pretrial services.

(3) Allocated funds may be used for pretrial services staff, to obtain assessment instruments, and to provide supervision of pretrial misdemeanor or felony defendants.

(4) In administering the pretrial program, the office shall:

(a) identify priorities for funding services and activities and the criteria for the allocation of program funds, including that courts accepting funds shall use a validated risk assessment tool to assign release conditions and determine placement options;

(b) monitor the expenditure of funds by counties and organizations receiving funds under this section;

(c) evaluate the effectiveness of services and activities under this section;

(d) establish an advisory council that includes local and district court judges and other stakeholders to provide guidance to the office; and

(e) develop policies and procedures necessary to implement this section, subject to approval of the supreme court.

(5) (a) Funds available under subsection (1) consist of state appropriations and federal funds received by the office for the purposes of administering the pretrial program or any funds received pursuant to subsection (5)(b).

(b) The office may accept gifts, grants, and donations from other public or private sources, which must be used within the scope of this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 2019.

3-1-709 reserved.

3-1-710. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 241, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 456, L. 2019.

3-1-711. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 241, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 241, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 456, L. 2019.

3-1-712. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 456, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 241, L. 2017.

3-1-713. Office of court administrator to report. (1) Each quarter of the fiscal year, the office of court administrator shall report to the law and justice interim committee and the legislative finance committee on the number of civil cases that have been pending for more than 2 years by judicial district. The report must identify:

(a) the judicial district;

(b) the number of cases in that district that are pending for more than 2 years but less than 3 years;

(c) the number of cases in that district that are pending for more than 3 years but less than 4 years;

(d) the number of cases in that district that are pending for more than 4 years but less than 5 years; and

(e) the number of cases in that district that are pending for more than 5 years.

(2) By September 1 of each year, the office of court administrator shall report to the law and justice interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210. The report must identify for the previous calendar year:

(a) the number and type of cases assigned to each district court judge;

(b) the number of times each judge is substituted; and

(c) the name of each attorney who requests a substitution of a judge and the number of substitution requests the attorney makes for each judge.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 566, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

3-1-714 and 3-1-715 reserved.

3-1-716. District court and judge key performance indicators display. (1) There is a district court and judge key performance indicator display to allow the public to view reports or other static documents related to court and judge performance. At a minimum, the display must be updated:

(a) quarterly for:

(i) statewide case processing measures; and

(ii) case processing measures, including on-time case processing statistics, case clearance rates, and age of active cases statistics; and

(b) annually for:

(i) case filings by major case categories;

(ii) new case filings;

(iii) workload filings by judicial district;

(iv) rates at which each district court judge's decisions are overturned wholly or in part on appeal.

(2) The data described in subsection (1)(a)(ii) must be published for each judge. The court administrator shall publish a comprehensive yearend report.

(3) In addition to the measures listed in subsection (1), the district court council shall:

(a) inventory all of the current measures used by the judicial branch to evaluate district court workload and efficiency;

(b) consider research on any additional objective quality indicators of judicial performance; and

(c) review the data on the dashboard at least annually for the purposes of quality improvement and management of the district courts, judges, and standing masters.

(4) When resources allow, the court administrator is encouraged to transition any display of a static report to an interactive dashboard display.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 283, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 26, 2023.

Transition: Section 2, Ch. 283, L. 2023, provided: "(1) By June 30, 2025, the court administrator and the district court council shall make the display available publicly. The activities required by [section 1] [3-1-716] and this section must be completed using existing resources.

(2) The court administrator shall report to the law and justice interim committee and the judicial branch, law enforcement, and justice budget committee established in 5-12-501 on the progress of the display created in [this act] before the end of December 2023 and again before September 15, 2024."

Part 8

Disqualification and Substitution of Judges Supreme Court Rule

Part Compiler's Comments

Effect of Publication: Section 2, Ch. 1, L. 1979, which adopted the MCA, provided that publication of a Supreme Court Rule is done for the benefit of code users. The publication of this section should not be construed as a legislative attempt to readopt or promulgate the rule.

Part Cross-References

Removal from office, 3-1-602.
District Court presided over by judge of other district, 3-5-111.
Municipal Court Judge pro tem — disqualification, 3-6-204.
Disqualification of Water Judge or master, 3-7-402.
When Acting Justice of the Peace called in, 3-10-231.
Expenses of Acting Justice of the Peace, 3-10-234.
When substitute for City Judge called in, 3-11-203.

3-1-801. Superseded. Sup. Ct. Ord. June 29, 1981.

History: En. Sup. Ct. Ord. dated Dec. 29, 1976; 34 St. Rep. 26; superseded, Sup. Ct. Ord. dated June 29, 1981.

3-1-802. Superseded. Sup. Ct. Ord. June 17, 1987.

History: En. Sup. Ct. Ord. dated June 29, 1981; superseded, Sup. Ct. Ord. dated June 17, 1987.

3-1-803. Disqualification of judges — all courts.

DISQUALIFICATION OF JUDGES

This section shall, in its application, apply to all courts listed in section 3-1-101 except a court of impeachment in the state senate.

Any justice, judge, justice of the peace, municipal court judge or city court judge must not sit or act in any action or proceeding:

1. To which he is a party, or in which he is interested.

2. When he is related to either party or any attorney or member of a firm of attorneys of record for a party by consanguinity or affinity within the third degree, computed according to the rules of law;

3. When he has been attorney or counsel in the action or proceeding for any party or when sitting in a case on appeal he as a judge in the lower court rendered or made the judgment, order, or decision appealed from.

History: En. Sup. Ct. Ord. dated June 17, 1987; amd. July 29, 1987; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. Sept. 13, 1988, eff. Sept. 13, 1988; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. Dec. 5, 2000, eff. Jan. 1, 2001.

3-1-804. Substitution of district judges.

SUBSTITUTION OF DISTRICT JUDGES

This section applies to judges presiding in district courts. It does not apply to any judge sitting as a water court judge, to a workers' compensation court judge, or to a judge supervising the distribution of water under 85-2-406, including supervising water commissioners under Title 85, chapter 5, part 1.

(1) Each adverse party is entitled to one substitution of a district judge.

(a) In a civil action other than those noted in subsection (1)(c), a motion for substitution by the party filing the action must be filed within 30 calendar days after the first summons is served or an adverse party has appeared. A motion for substitution by the party served must be filed within 30 calendar days after service has been completed in compliance with M. R. Civ. P. 4.

(b) In a criminal action, a motion for substitution by the prosecution or the defendant must be filed within 10 calendar days after the defendant's arraignment.

(c) A motion for substitution may not be filed in the following cases: a child abuse or neglect proceeding under Title 41, chapter 3; a youth court action proceeding under Title 41, chapter 5; or a mental health commitment proceeding under Title 53, chapter 21, part 1.

(2) (a) When an initial pleading is filed, the clerk of court shall stamp the name of the district judge to whom the case is assigned on the face of the original and all copies of that document.

(b) A motion for substitution of district judge must be made by filing a written motion with the clerk as follows:

The undersigned hereby moves for substitution of District Judge _______ in this case.

The moving party shall serve copies of the motion for substitution upon all other parties to the proceeding. The clerk shall immediately notify the district judge of the motion and, if there has already been a substitution, the first district judge to whom the case was assigned.

(3) In civil cases, the motion for substitution is not effective for any purpose unless the filing fee for a motion for substitution required by 25-1-201 is paid to the clerk of the district court.

In criminal cases, the motion for substitution is effective upon filing, except as otherwise provided herein for a motion filed by a defendant who is not represented by a public defender, as defined by 47-1-103.

In criminal cases filed by the county attorney, the county attorney shall pay the substitution motion fee required by 25-1-201 within 30 days of receipt of a claim from the clerk of district court. In criminal cases filed by the attorney general, the attorney general shall pay the substitution motion fee required by 25-1-201 within 30 days of receipt of a claim from the clerk of district court.

In criminal cases where the motion is filed by or on behalf of an indigent defendant, as defined by 47-1-103, represented by a public defender, as defined by 47-1-103, the office of public defender, as defined by 47-1-103, shall pay the substitution motion fee within 30 days of receipt of a claim from the clerk of district court. In criminal cases where the motion is filed by or on behalf of a defendant who is not represented by a public defender, as defined by 47-1-103, the motion for substitution is not effective for any purpose unless the substitution motion fee required by 25-1-201 is paid to the clerk of the district court except as waived pursuant to 25-10-404.

The substitution motion filing fee required by 25-1-201 is not a district court expense within the meaning of 3-5-901.

(4) Any motion for substitution that is not timely filed is void. The district judge for whom substitution is sought has jurisdiction to determine timeliness, and if the motion for substitution is untimely, shall enter an order denying the motion.

(5) After a timely motion has been filed, the substituted district judge does not have the power to act on the merits of the case or to decide legal issues in the case, except as provided in subsection (10).

(6) The first district judge who has been substituted or disqualified for cause has the duty of calling in all subsequent district judges. In a multijudge district, all other district judges in that district must be called before a district judge from another district is called.

(7) When a new district judge has accepted jurisdiction, the clerk of court shall provide a copy of the assumption of jurisdiction to the first district judge to whom the case was assigned and to each attorney or party of record. A certificate of service must be attached to the assumption of jurisdiction form in the court file.

(8) If the presiding judge in any action recuses himself or herself or if a new district judge assumes jurisdiction in any action, the right to move for substitution of a district judge is

reinstated, except as to parties who have previously obtained a substitution. The time periods run anew from the date of service of notice or other document identifying the new district judge.

(9) No party who is joined or intervenes has any right of substitution after the time has run as to the original parties to proceed.

(10) A district judge who has previously been substituted from the case may agree to set the calendar, draw a jury, and conduct all routine matters including arraignments, preliminary pretrial conferences in civil cases, and other matters that do not address the merits of the case, if authorized by the presiding district judge.

(11) When a new trial is ordered by the district court, each adverse party shall be entitled to one motion for substitution of district judge. The motion must be filed, with the required filing fee, within 20 calendar days after the district court has ordered a new trial.

(12) When a judgment or order is reversed or modified on appeal and the cause is remanded to the district court for a new trial, or when a summary judgment or judgment of dismissal is reversed and the cause remanded, each adverse party is entitled to one motion for substitution of district judge. The motion must be filed, with the required filing fee, within 20 calendar days after the remittitur from the supreme court has been filed with the district court. There is no other right of substitution in cases remanded by the supreme court.

In criminal cases, there is no right of substitution when the cause is remanded for sentencing.

History: En. Sup. Ct. Ord. dated June 17, 1987; amd. July 29, 1987; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. Sept. 13, 1988, eff. Sept. 13, 1988; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. Nov. 20, 1989, eff. Nov. 20, 1989; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. Nov. 14, 1994, eff. Feb. 1, 1995; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. Apr. 6, 1995, eff. June 1, 1995; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. July 9, 2009, eff. Oct. 1, 2009; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. No. AF 09-0289, March 24, 2015, eff. July 1, 2015.

3-1-805. Disqualification for cause.

DISQUALIFICATION FOR CAUSE

This section is limited in its application to judges presiding in district courts, justice of the peace courts, municipal courts, small claims courts, and city courts.

1. Whenever a party to any proceeding in any court shall file an affidavit alleging facts showing personal bias or prejudice of the presiding judge, such judge shall proceed no further in the cause. If the affidavit is filed against a district judge, the matter shall be referred to the Montana Supreme Court. If the affidavit is in compliance with subsections (a), (b), and (c) below, the Chief Justice shall assign a district judge to hear the matter. If the affidavit is filed against a judge of a municipal court, justice court, or city court, any district judge presiding in the district of the court involved may appoint either a justice of the peace, a municipal judge or a city court judge, to hear any such proceeding.

(a) The affidavit for disqualification must be filed more than thirty (30) days before the date set for hearing or trial.

(b) The affidavit shall be accompanied by a certificate of counsel of record that the affidavit has been made in good faith. An affidavit will be deemed not to have been made in good faith if it is based solely on rulings in the case which can be addressed in an appeal from the final judgment.

(c) Any affidavit which is not in proper form and which does not allege facts showing personal bias or prejudice may be set aside as void.

(d) The judge appointed to preside at a disqualification proceeding may assess attorneys fees, costs and damages against any party or his attorney who files such disqualification without reasonable cause and thereby hinders, delays or takes unconscionable advantage of any other party, or the court.

History: En. Sup. Ct. Ord. dated June 17, 1987; amd. July 29, 1987; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. Sept. 13, 1988, eff. Sept. 13, 1988; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. dated January 6, 1994; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. dated June 19, 2003, eff. June 19, 2003.

Part 9
Judicial Vacancies

3-1-901. Judicial vacancy — notice. (1) (a) Upon receiving notice from the chief justice of the supreme court, the governor shall appoint a candidate, as provided in this part, to fill any vacancy on the supreme court or the district court.

(b) The chief justice of the supreme court shall appoint a candidate to fill any term or vacancy for the chief water judge or associate water judge pursuant to 3-7-221.

(2) Within 10 days of the date of receipt by the governor of the notice from the chief justice of the supreme court that a vacancy has occurred or the effective date of a judicial resignation has been announced, the governor shall notify the public, including media outlets with general statewide circulation and other appropriate sources, that a vacancy has been announced, including the deadline within which applications must be received.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

3-1-902. Investigation — qualifications for appointment. (1) The governor may authorize investigations concerning the qualifications of eligible persons.

(2) A lawyer in good standing who has the qualifications set forth by law for holding judicial office may be a candidate and may apply to the governor for consideration, or application may be made by any person on the lawyer's behalf.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

3-1-903. Applications. An eligible person may apply for the vacant judicial position by completing and submitting to the governor an original signed paper application and an electronic copy of the original application by the deadline date. The deadline date must be within 40 days of the governor's receipt of the notice of vacancy provided by the chief justice.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

3-1-904. Public comment. (1) The governor shall establish a reasonable period for reviewing applications and interviewing applicants that provides at least 30 days for public comment concerning applicants.

(2) Each applicant who has the qualifications set forth by law for holding judicial office and who receives a letter of support from at least three adult Montana residents by the close of the public comment period provided for in subsection (1) must be considered a nominee for the position.

(3) The total time from receipt of notice of a vacancy until appointment may not exceed 100 days.

(4) The application, public comment, and any related documents are open to the public except when the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

3-1-905. Appointments. (1) The governor, or the chief justice of the supreme court for the office described in 3-7-221, shall make an appointment within 30 days of the close of the public comment period from the list of applicants.

(2) For purposes of Article VII, section 8, of the Montana constitution, the governor must be construed to receive the names of the nominees at the close of the public comment period provided for in 3-1-904.

(3) If the governor fails to appoint within 30 days of the close of the public comment period provided for in subsection (1), the chief justice shall make the appointment from the same list of applicants within 30 days of the governor's failure to appoint.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

3-1-906. Senate confirmation — exception — nomination in interim — appointment contingent on vacancy. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2):

(i) each appointment must be confirmed by the senate; and

(ii) an appointment made while the senate is not in session is effective until the end of the next regular legislative session.

(b) If the appointment is subject to senate confirmation under subsection (1)(a) and is not confirmed, the office is vacant and another selection of nominees and appointment must be made.

(2) The following appointments are not subject to senate confirmation, and there must be an election for the office at the general election immediately preceding the scheduled expiration of the term or following the appointment, as applicable:

(a) an appointment made while the senate is not in session if the term to which the appointee is appointed expires prior to the next regular legislative session, regardless of the time of the appointment in relation to the candidate filing deadlines for the office; and

(b) an appointment made while the senate is not in session if a general election will be held prior to the next regular legislative session and the appointment is made prior to the candidate filing deadline for primary elections under 13-10-201(7), in which case the position is subject to election at the next primary and general elections.

(3) A nomination is not effective unless a vacancy in office occurs.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 62, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 16, 2023.

3-1-907. Duration of appointment — election for remainder of term. (1) If an appointment subject to 3-1-905 is confirmed by the senate, the appointee shall serve until the appointee or another person elected at the first general election after confirmation is elected and qualified. The candidate elected at that election holds the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(2) If an incumbent judge or justice files for election to the office to which the judge or justice was elected or appointed and no other candidate files for election to that office, the name of the incumbent must nevertheless be placed on the general election ballot to allow voters of the district or state to approve or reject the incumbent. If an incumbent is rejected at an election for approval or rejection, the incumbent shall serve until the day before the first Monday of January following the election, at which time the office is vacant and another appointment must be made.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 62, L. 2021.**

Part 10
Judicial Nomination Commission
(Repealed)

3-1-1001. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 470, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-705; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 651, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 810, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 2011.**

3-1-1002. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-706(1), (2); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 810, L. 1991.**

3-1-1003. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-706(3), (4); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 147, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

3-1-1004. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 470, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 453, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-716.**

3-1-1005. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-715.**

3-1-1006. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-707; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 651, L. 1987.**

3-1-1007. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-717; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 423, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 810, L. 1991.**

3-1-1008. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-708; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 651, L. 1987.**

3-1-1009. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-709; amd. Sec. 148, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

3-1-1010. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-710; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 423, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 344, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 651, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 810, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 149, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 335, L. 2011.**

3-1-1011. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-711; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 344, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 651, L. 1987.

3-1-1012. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-712; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 344, L. 1987.

3-1-1013. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-713; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 344, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 49, L. 2015.

3-1-1014. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 62, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 470, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-714; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 377, L. 1993.

Part 11
Judicial Standards Commission

Part Cross-References

Removal and discipline of judges, Art. VII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

3-1-1101. Creation and composition of commission. (1) There is created a judicial standards commission consisting of five members as follows:

(a) two district court judges appointed by the speaker of the house as provided in 3-1-1115 and confirmed by the senate;

(b) one attorney who has practiced law in this state for at least 10 years, appointed by the attorney general and confirmed by the senate; and

(c) two citizens who are not attorneys or judges of any court, active or retired, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

(2) Members shall serve staggered 4-year terms.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-718; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 52, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 188, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 188, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 20, 2023.

Transition: Section 3, Ch. 188, L. 2023, provided: "(1) After [the effective date of this act] [April 20, 2023] and when a vacancy occurs:

(a) in a seat held by a district court judge, the position must be filled using the provisions of [section 1] [3-1-1115];

(b) in a seat held by an attorney appointed by the supreme court, the position must be filled as provided in 3-1-1101(1)(b); and

(c) in a seat held by a citizen appointed by the governor, the position must be filled as provided in 3-1-1101(1)(c).

(2) Members appointed under the provisions of this section serve a full term unless appointed to fill an unexpired term. A member appointed pursuant to this section may be reappointed.

(3) After initial appointments are made as provided in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b), all future vacancies must be filled as provided in 3-1-1103."

3-1-1102. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 188, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 95, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-719.

3-1-1103. Terminated membership — vacancies. (1) Commission membership terminates if a member ceases to hold the position that qualified the person for appointment.

(2) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the appointing authority of the vacated seat shall designate a successor.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 95, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-720; amd. Sec. 150, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-1104. No compensation — travel expenses. A commission member is not entitled to compensation for the member's services but is entitled to travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred in the performance of the member's duties.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 95, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 453, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-721; amd. Sec. 151, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-1105. Confidential proceedings — rules for commission. (1) Except as provided in 3-1-1107 and 3-1-1121 through 3-1-1126, all papers filed with and proceedings before the commission or masters are confidential and the filing of papers with and the testimony given before the commission or masters is privileged communication.

(2) The commission shall make rules for the conduct of its affairs and the enforcement of confidentiality and provide public disclosure when appropriate consistent with this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 95, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-723; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 460, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 460, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

3-1-1106. Investigation of judicial officers — complaint — hearing — recommendations. (1) (a) The commission, upon the filing of a written complaint by any citizen of the state, shall initiate an investigation of any judicial officer in the state to determine if there are grounds for conducting additional proceedings before the commission. If the commission's investigation indicates that additional proceedings before the commission may be justified, the commission shall require the citizen who filed the original written complaint to sign a verified written complaint by affidavit before conducting additional proceedings.

(b) The commission shall give the judicial officer written notice of the citizen's complaint and of the initiation of an investigation. Notice must also be given if a verified written complaint by affidavit is filed and must include the charges made, the grounds for the charges, and a statement that the judicial officer may file an answer. The notice must be signed by the commission.

(2) The commission, after an investigation that it considers necessary and on a finding of good cause, shall:

(a) order a hearing to be held before it concerning the censure, suspension, removal, or retirement of a judicial officer;

(b) publicly advise the judicial officer and the supreme court, in writing, that the complaint will be dismissed if the judicial officer files with the commission a letter stating that the officer will take corrective action satisfactory to the commission; or

(c) request that the supreme court appoint one or more special masters who are judges of courts of record to hear and take evidence and to report to the commission.

(3) If after a hearing or after considering the record and the report of the masters the commission finds the charges true, it shall publicly recommend to the supreme court the censure, suspension, removal, or disability retirement of the judicial officer.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 95, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-722; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 152, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 460, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 460, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Supreme Court Justice or District Court Judge not to run for office, 3-1-607.
Forced vacancy, 3-1-608.

3-1-1107. Action by supreme court. (1) The supreme court shall review the record of the proceedings and shall make such determination as it finds just and proper and may:

(a) order censure, suspension, removal, or retirement of a judicial officer; or

(b) wholly reject the recommendation.

(2) Any hearing conducted before the supreme court relative to a recommendation by the commission, together with all papers pertaining to such recommendation, shall be accessible to the public.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 95, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-724; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 441, L. 1981.

3-1-1108. Nonparticipation of interested judicial officer. A judicial officer who is a member of the commission or of the supreme court may not participate in any proceeding involving the officer's own censure, suspension, removal, or retirement or that of the officer's spouse, a relative within the sixth degree of consanguinity, or the spouse of a relative related within the sixth degree.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 95, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-725; amd. Sec. 153, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Relationship by affinity, 1-1-219.
Degrees of kindred, 72-11-102 through 72-11-104.

3-1-1109. Interim disqualification of judicial officer. (1) A judicial officer must be disqualified from serving as a judicial officer, without loss of salary, while there is pending an indictment or an information charging the officer with a crime punishable as a felony under Montana or federal law.

(2) When the commission files with the supreme court a recommendation that a judicial officer be removed or retired, the judicial officer must be disqualified from serving as a judicial officer, without loss of salary, pending the supreme court's review of the record and proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 95, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-726; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 386, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 154, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Expenses of Acting Justice of the Peace, 3-10-234.

3-1-1110. Procedure when convicted of crime. (1) On recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may suspend a judicial officer from office without salary when the officer pleads guilty or no contest or is found guilty of a crime punishable as a felony under Montana or federal law or of any other crime involving moral turpitude.

(2) If the judicial officer's conviction is reversed, suspension terminates and the officer must be paid the officer's salary for the period of suspension.

(3) If the judicial officer is suspended and a conviction becomes final, the supreme court shall remove the officer from office.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 95, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-727; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Expenses of Acting Justice of the Peace, 3-10-234.

3-1-1111. Orders for retirement or removal. (1) Upon an order for retirement, the judicial officer must be retired with the same rights and privileges as if the officer retired pursuant to statute.

(2) Upon an order for removal, the judicial officer must be removed from office and the officer's salary must cease from the date of the order. The officer is ineligible for any other judicial office and pending a further order of the court is suspended from practicing law.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 95, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-728; amd. Sec. 156, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Montana judges' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 5.

3-1-1112 through 3-1-1114 reserved.

3-1-1115. Legislative nomination panel. (1) There is a nomination panel made up of members of the house of representatives for the purposes of providing recommendations to the speaker of the house about appointments made as provided in 3-1-1101(1)(a). Within 3 days of the start of each regular legislative session, the speaker of the house shall appoint three representatives to the legislative nomination panel. The panel must have at least one member from the minority party. If a vacancy occurs on the panel, the speaker may appoint a replacement.

(2) When a vacancy occurs on the judicial standards commission in a position appointed as provided in 3-1-1101(1)(a), the speaker of the house shall notify the district court judges, who shall present the nomination panel with a list of all district court judges who are willing to serve as a commissioner. After consideration of the judges' qualifications, the nomination panel shall forward no fewer than three names to the speaker of the house, who shall select a commissioner from that pool of names.

(3) Members of the nomination panel serve until the start of the first regular session after their appointment unless they are reappointed.

(4) The nomination panel may meet between regular sessions of the legislature to fill vacancies.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 6, Ch. 188, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 20, 2023.

Transition: Section 3, Ch. 188, L. 2023, provided: "(1) After [the effective date of this act] [April 20, 2023] and when a vacancy occurs:

(a) in a seat held by a district court judge, the position must be filled using the provisions of [section 1] [3-1-1115];

(b) in a seat held by an attorney appointed by the supreme court, the position must be filled as provided in 3-1-1101(1)(b); and

(c) in a seat held by a citizen appointed by the governor, the position must be filled as provided in 3-1-1101(1)(c).

(2) Members appointed under the provisions of this section serve a full term unless appointed to fill an unexpired term. A member appointed pursuant to this section may be reappointed.

(3) After initial appointments are made as provided in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b), all future vacancies must be filled as provided in 3-1-1103."

3-1-1116 through 3-1-1120 reserved.

3-1-1121. Public disclosure required. (1) If the commission finds good cause to order a hearing pursuant to 3-1-1106(2), the commission must allow public access to:

(a) all papers pertaining to each finding of good cause, including charges that are later determined not to be grounds for recommending retirement or disciplinary action to the supreme court;

(b) the proceedings in which the commission or masters hear the charges against a judge; and

(c) all transcripts or recordings of proceedings before the commission or masters pertaining to the matters described in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b).

(2) A complaint must be made public on request by a member of the public 12 years after dismissal.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 441, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 460, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 460, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

3-1-1122. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 460, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 441, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 386, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 157, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-1-1123. Public statements by commission. In any case in which the subject matter becomes public, through independent sources, through a waiver of confidentiality by the judge against whom the complaint has been filed, or under other circumstances as the commission considers appropriate, the commission may issue statements as it considers appropriate in order to:

(1) confirm the pendency of the investigation;
(2) clarify the procedural aspects of the disciplinary proceedings;
(3) explain the right of the judge to a fair hearing without prejudgment;
(4) state that the judge denies the allegations; or
(5) declare that there is insufficient evidence for a finding of good cause.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 441, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 460, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 460, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

3-1-1124. Disclosure for judicial selection — appointment or assignment. If in connection with the selection or appointment of a judge, any state or federal agency seeks information or written materials from the commission concerning that judge, information must be divulged in accordance with procedures prescribed by the commission, including reasonable notice to the judge affected. If in connection with the assignment of a retired judge to judicial duties, any appropriate authority seeks information or written materials from the commission about that judge, information must be divulged in accordance with procedures prescribed by the commission, including reasonable notice to the judge affected.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 441, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 460, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 460, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

3-1-1125. Efficiency and effectiveness — audit authorized. (1) The legislative auditor may audit the commission to determine whether it is efficiently and effectively processing complaints against judicial officers in the state in accordance with this part.

(2) The confidentiality provisions of this part do not bar the legislative auditor from obtaining access to any information possessed by the commission that is necessary to the legislative audit function so long as confidential information is kept confidential by the legislative auditor.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 441, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Powers and duties of Legislative Auditor, 5-13-304.

3-1-1126. Commission report to legislature. The commission shall, as provided in 5-11-210, submit to the legislature a report containing the following information:

(1) identification of each complaint, whether or not verified, received by the commission during the preceding biennium by a separate number that reveals the identity of the judge complained against;

(2) the date each complaint was filed;

(3) the general nature of each complaint, including the type of complaint, the issues involved, and the basic facts making up the complaint;

(4) whether there have been previous complaints against the same judge and, if so, the general nature of the previous complaints;

(5) the present status of all complaints filed with or pending before the commission during the preceding biennium;

(6) whenever a final disposition of a complaint has been made during the preceding biennium, the nature of the disposition, the commission's recommendation, if any, to the supreme court, and the action taken by the supreme court; and

(7) how each commission member voted.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 441, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 460, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 460, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Parts 12 through 14 reserved

Part 15
Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Training and Certification of Judges

Part Cross-References

Justices of the Peace — orientation course — annual training, 3-10-203.

City Judges — training sessions, 3-11-204.

3-1-1501. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commission" means the commission on courts of limited jurisdiction established by the supreme court.

(2) "Judge" means:

(a) a municipal court judge;

(b) a justice of the peace; or

(c) a city judge.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 1985.

3-1-1502. Training and certification of judges. Except as provided in 3-1-1503, a judge selected for a term of office may not assume the functions of the office unless the judge has filed with the county clerk and recorder in the jurisdiction a certificate of completion of a course of education and training prescribed by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 127, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 158, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Justices of the Peace — certification required before taking oath, 3-10-202.

Justice of the Peace, City Judge, and Municipal Court Judge — certification of results of canvass of votes cast for, 13-15-405.

3-1-1503. Exception — temporary certificate. (1) Section 3-1-1502 does not apply to a judge who has received a temporary certificate issued by the commission as provided for in subsection (2).

(2) The commission may issue a temporary certificate enabling a judge to assume the functions of the office pending completion of a course as required by 3-1-1502. The temporary certificate must be in a form and subject to the terms and conditions prescribed by the commission.

(3) The commission may issue a temporary certificate only if:

(a) the judge is appointed or elected after the course is offered; or

(b) the commission grants an excuse because of a personal illness, a death in the family, or other good cause.

(4) The appointing authority for an appointed judge shall notify the commission of the person appointed, and the person appointed must be certified as provided in 3-1-1502 or this section prior to assuming office.

History: **En. Secs. 3, 4, Ch. 127, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 317, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 159, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

3-1-1504 and 3-1-1505 reserved.

3-1-1506. Expenses. Each judge is entitled to reimbursement for all actual and necessary travel expenses and other costs incurred in attending a course of training and education pursuant to 3-1-1502. Such reimbursement must be paid as provided for in 3-10-203 and 3-11-204.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 127, L. 1985.**

3-1-1507. Disqualification. Each judge shall complete a course of training and education as required by 3-1-1502. Subject to 3-1-1503, failure to obtain a certificate of completion disqualifies the elected or appointed judge from assuming office and creates a vacancy in the office.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 127, L. 1985.**

3-1-1508. Credit toward annual training. Attendance of a training course prescribed by 3-1-1502 shall apply toward fulfillment of mandatory annual training requirements provided in 3-10-203 and 3-11-204.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 127, L. 1985.**

Part 16
District Court Council — Judiciary Branch Account

3-1-1601. District court council — administration of state funding of district courts. (1) The district court council shall adopt policies and procedures to administer the state-funded district court program as established in 3-5-901.

(2) The court administrator appointed under 3-1-701 shall administer the policies and procedures adopted under this section.

(3) Money appropriated for the district court program may not be used for any other purpose.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 585, L. 2001.**

3-1-1602. District court council — appointment — composition — duties — staggered terms — staff. (1) There is a district court council. The council must be composed of nine members as follows:

(a) the chief justice of the supreme court or a designee of the chief justice;

(b) four district court judges elected by district court judges, one of whom must be from a judicial district that does not contain a first-class city as provided in 7-1-4111; and

(c) the following ex officio, nonvoting members appointed by the supreme court:

(i) one chief juvenile probation officer nominated by the Montana juvenile probation officers association;

(ii) one clerk of the district court nominated by the Montana association of clerks of district courts;

(iii) one county commissioner nominated by the Montana association of counties; and

(iv) one court reporter nominated by the Montana court reporters association.

(2) The chief justice or the chief justice's designee shall serve as the presiding officer of the council and shall appoint a vice presiding officer to act in the absence of the presiding officer.

(3) The district court council shall develop and adopt policies and procedures, subject to review by the supreme court, to administer the state funding of district courts. The policies and procedures must address but not be limited to the following issues related to district courts:

(a) workload;

(b) resource allocation among the district courts;

(c) hiring policies;

(d) court procedures;

(e) information technology;

(f) for court reporters, work schedules, transcript fees, and equipment; and
(g) other issues regarding the state funding of district courts.

(4) Each district court judge shall retain the inherent power to select and appoint the judge's own necessary assistants and employees and to direct the performance of their duties.

(5) The chief justice of the supreme court shall serve on the council during the term of election or appointment. Other members shall serve staggered 3-year terms.

(6) The court administrator shall provide sufficient support to the council to allow it to carry out its statutory duties.

(7) The council shall provide reports to the legislature and supreme court upon request.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 585, L. 2001.

3-1-1603. District court council vacancies. (1) In the event that a vacancy on the district court council occurs, the supreme court shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term. The replacement must be a member of the same group as the member replaced.

(2) Appointments provided for in this section must be made within 30 days of the occurrence of the vacancy.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 585, L. 2001.

3-1-1604. District court council meetings — quorum. (1) The district court council may determine the time and place of its meetings and shall meet at least once each quarter.

(2) A majority of the voting members of the council constitutes a quorum. A quorum may call a meeting upon reasonable notice to the other council members.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 585, L. 2001.

3-1-1605. No compensation — travel expenses. The members of the district court council are not entitled to compensation for their services, but are entitled to travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, while engaged in the discharge of council duties.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 585, L. 2001.

3-1-1606 through 3-1-1609 reserved.

3-1-1610. Judiciary branch account created. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund to be used by the supreme court for payment of accumulated vacation and sick leave for county employees who became state employees on July 1, 2002.

(2) The money paid to the state by the counties for the counties' share of accumulated sick leave and accumulated vacation leave accruals under subsection (4) of section 57, Chapter 585, Laws of 2001, must be deposited in the account established in subsection (1).

(3) Interest and earnings on the account must be deposited in the account.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 583, L. 2003.

CHAPTER 2
SUPREME COURT

Part 1 — Supreme Court Justices

3-2-101. Number, election, and term of office.
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3-2-103. Computation of term of office.
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3-2-202. Original jurisdiction — review of ballot statements.
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3-2-708. No abridgment of legislative power.
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3-2-714. Civil legal assistance for indigent victims of domestic violence account.

Part 1
Supreme Court Justices

Part Cross-References

Judicial vacancies, Title 3, ch. 1, part 9.
Montana judges' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 5.
Assault on peace officer or judicial officer, 45-5-210.

3-2-101. Number, election, and term of office. The supreme court consists of a chief justice and six associate justices who are elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general state elections next preceding the expiration of the terms of office of their predecessors, respectively, and hold their offices for the term of 8 years from and after the first Monday of January next succeeding their election.

History: En. Sec. 12, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6244, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, Ex. L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 8790, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 40; re-en. Sec. 8790, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-201; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 683, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Organization of Supreme Court, Art. VII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

3-2-102. Qualifications and residence. (1) A person is not eligible for the office of justice of the supreme court unless the person is a citizen of the United States, has resided in the state 2 years immediately before taking office, and has been admitted to practice law in Montana for at least 5 years prior to the date of appointment or election.

(2) Justices of the supreme court must reside within the state during their terms of office.

History: En. Sec. 161, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6309, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8863, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 157; re-en. Sec. 8863, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-702(part); amd. Sec. 160, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Supreme Court Justice qualifications, Art. VII, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Rules for determining residence, 1-1-215.

3-2-103. Computation of term of office. The years during which a justice of the supreme court is to hold office are to be computed respectively from and including the first Monday of January of any one year to and excluding the first Monday of January of the next succeeding year.

History: **En. Sec. 13, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6245, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8797, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 41; re-en. Sec. 8797, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-208.**

3-2-104. Salaries — expenses. (1) The salaries of justices of the supreme court are provided for in 2-16-403.

(2) Actual and necessary travel expenses of the justices of the supreme court shall be the travel expenses, as defined and provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred in the performance of their official duties.

History: **(1)En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 8815, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8815, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-304, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-304(part); (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 375, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 3, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 462, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 455, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Salaries of Supreme Court Justices, Art. VII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.; 2-16-403.

Part 2
Supreme Court Jurisdiction

Part Cross-References

Jurisdiction of Supreme Court, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

3-2-201. Types of jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the supreme court is of two kinds:

(1) original; and

(2) appellate.

History: **En. Sec. 18, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6250, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8802, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 50; re-en. Sec. 8802, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-213.**

3-2-202. Original jurisdiction — review of ballot statements. (1) In the exercise of its original jurisdiction, the supreme court has power to issue writs of mandamus, certiorari, prohibition, injunction, and habeas corpus.

(2) The supreme court has the power to issue all other writs necessary and proper to the complete exercise of its appellate jurisdiction.

(3) (a) The supreme court has original jurisdiction to review the petitioner's ballot statements for initiated measures and the attorney general's ballot statements for referred measures and the attorney general's legal sufficiency determination in an action brought pursuant to 13-27-605.

(b) (i) In an original proceeding under subsection (3)(a), the petitioner and the attorney general shall certify the absence of factual issues or shall stipulate to and file any factual record necessary to the supreme court's consideration of the petitioner's ballot statements or the attorney general's legal sufficiency determination.

(ii) If the parties to an original proceeding under subsection (3)(a) fail to make the certification or stipulation required by subsection (3)(b)(i), the supreme court shall refer the proceeding to the district court in the county of residence of the lead petitioner for development of a factual record and an order that addresses the issues provided in 13-27-605(3). Any party may appeal the order of the district court to the supreme court by filing a notice of appeal within 5 days of the date of the order of the district court. If a lead petitioner has not been designated in accordance with this section or if the parties to the proceeding agree, the proceeding must be referred to the district court for Lewis and Clark County.

(4) As used in this section, "lead petitioner" means an individual designated by the petitioner or petitioners on a form provided by the secretary of state.

(5) Nothing in subsection (3) limits the right to challenge a ballot issue enacted by a vote of the people.

History: **En. Sec. 19, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6251, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8803, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 51; re-en. Sec. 8803, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-214; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 540, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 481, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Right to habeas corpus, Art. II, sec. 19, Mont. Const.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Writ of certiorari, 27-25-102.
Writ of mandamus, 27-26-102.
Writ of prohibition, 27-27-102.
Proceeding for unlawful assertion of authority, 27-28-101.
Habeas corpus — rights and procedure, Title 46, ch. 22.

3-2-203. Appellate jurisdiction. The appellate jurisdiction of the supreme court extends to all cases at law and in equity.

History: En. Sec. 20, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6252, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8804, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 52; re-en. Sec. 8804, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-215.

3-2-204. Powers and duties of court on appeals. (1) The supreme court may affirm, reverse, or modify any judgment or order appealed from and may direct the proper judgment or order to be entered or direct a new trial or further proceedings to be had.

(2) The decision of the court must be given in writing, and a syllabus thereof must be prepared by the court and filed with the opinion.

(3) In giving its decision, if a new trial be granted, the court must pass upon and determine all the questions of law involved in the case presented upon such appeal and necessary to the final determination of the case.

(4) Its judgment in appealed cases must be remitted to the court from which the appeal was taken.

(5) In equity cases and in matters and proceedings of an equitable nature, the supreme court shall review all questions of fact arising upon the evidence presented in the record, whether the same be presented by specifications of particulars in which the evidence is alleged to be insufficient or not, and determine the same, as well as questions of law, unless for good cause a new trial or the taking of further evidence in the court below be ordered. Nothing herein shall be construed to abridge in any manner the powers of the supreme court in other cases.

History: En. Ch. 1, Ex. L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 6253, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8805, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 53; re-en. Sec. 8805, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-216.

Cross-References

Exclusive method of review, 25-12-101.

3-2-205. Injunctions. (1) Upon such terms and under such rules as the supreme court may establish, the supreme court may continue in force an injunction order made by a district court or judge or grant an injunction order and writ pending an appeal to the supreme court from an order of a district court or judge refusing or dissolving an injunction.

(2) No action to obtain an injunction may be commenced in the supreme court except in cases where the state is a party, the public is interested, or the rights of the public are involved. The proper district court has jurisdiction of all injunctions and the commencement of all actions therefor, except as provided in this section.

(3) The supreme court may provide rules for the commencement and trial of actions for injunctions in that court.

History: En. Sec. 23, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6255, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8807, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8807, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-218; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 21, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Original jurisdiction of District Courts, 3-5-302.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

3-2-206 through 3-2-210 reserved.

3-2-211. Concurrence of majority — for what necessary. The concurrence of a majority of the justices of the supreme court is necessary for the issuance of any writ or the transaction of any business except such as can be done at chambers.

History: En. Sec. 22, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6254, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8806, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 54; re-en. Sec. 8806, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-217(part).

Cross-References

Majority to join in and pronounce decision, Art. VII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

3-2-212. Powers of justices individually — certiorari and habeas corpus. (1) Each of the justices of the supreme court may issue writs of habeas corpus to any part of the state upon petition by or on behalf of any person held in actual custody and may make the writs returnable before the issuing justice, the supreme court, or any justice of the supreme court or before any district court of the state or any district court judge. The writs may be heard and determined by the justice, court, or judge before whom they are made returnable.

(2) Each of the justices of the supreme court may also issue and hear and determine writs of certiorari in proceedings for contempt in the district court.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 170, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6313, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8866, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 165; re-en. Sec. 8866, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-801, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 22, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6254, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8806, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 54; re-en. Sec. 8806, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-217, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-217(part), 93-801; amd. Sec. 161, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Right to habeas corpus, Art. II, sec. 19, Mont. Const.
Writ of certiorari, 3-1-523, 27-25-102.
Writ of mandamus, 27-26-102.
Writ of prohibition, 27-27-102.
Proceeding for unlawful assertion of authority, 27-28-101.
Habeas corpus — rights and procedure, Title 46, ch. 22.

Part 3
Sessions of the Supreme Court

3-2-301. Who shall preside. The chief justice presides at all sessions of the supreme court, and in case of the chief justice's absence, the associate justice having the shortest term to serve presides.

History: En. Sec. 15, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6247, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8799, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8799, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-210(part); amd. Sec. 162, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-2-302. Quorum. A majority of the justices is necessary to form a quorum of the court. Any decision must be concurred in by a majority of the justices of the court, but one or more of the justices may adjourn the court from day to day or to a day certain.

History: En. Sec. 15, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6247, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8799, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8799, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-210(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 683, L. 1979.

3-2-303. Term of supreme court. The supreme court may have only one term each year. The term must be held at the seat of government and must commence on the first day of January.

History: En. Sec. 16, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6248, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8800, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 47; re-en. Sec. 8800, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-211(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 328, L. 2005.

3-2-304. Physical facilities. (1) If proper rooms in which to hold the court and for the accommodation of the officers thereof are not provided by the state, together with attendants, furniture, fuel, lights, and stationery, suitable and sufficient for the transaction of business, the court or a majority thereof may direct the clerk of the supreme court to provide such rooms, attendants, furniture, lights, fuel, and stationery.

(2) The expenses thereof, certified by any two justices to be correct, must be paid out of the state treasury only out of funds in the state treasury appropriated to the supreme court.

History: En. Sec. 16, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6248, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8800, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 47; re-en. Sec. 8800, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-211(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 610, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Appointment of marshal and other employees, 3-2-501.
Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.
Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.

Part 4
Clerk of the Supreme Court

3-2-401. Election and term of office. There must be a clerk of the supreme court who must be elected by the electors at large of the state and hold office for the term of 6 years from the first Monday of January following the clerk's election.

History: En. Sec. 870, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 299, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 370, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Secs. 749-758; re-en. Sec. 370, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 100, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-501; amd. Sec. 163, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-2-402. Duties — electronic filing and storage of court records. (1) It is the duty of the clerk to:

(a) keep the seal of the supreme court, its records and files, and the roll of attorneys and counselors at law;

(b) adjourn the court from day to day at the beginning of any term in the absence of any justice and until the arrival of a majority of the justices;

(c) file all papers or transcripts required by law to be filed;
(d) issue writs and certificates and approve bonds or undertakings when required;
(e) make out all transcripts to the supreme court of the United States;
(f) make copies of papers or records when demanded by law or the rules of the court; and
(g) perform other duties as may be required by law and the rules and practice of the supreme court.

(2) The clerk may elect to keep court documents by means of electronic filing or storage, or both, as provided in 3-1-114 and 3-1-115, in lieu of or in addition to keeping paper records.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 871, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 300, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 371, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 371, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-502, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 3, p. 208, L. 1891; amd. Sec. 873, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 302, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 373, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 373, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-504, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-502, 82-504; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 174, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Court seal, 3-1-201, 3-1-202, 3-1-204, 3-1-206.
Adjournment by Clerk for absence of judge, 3-1-304, 3-1-305.
Striking attorney's name from roll upon disbarment, 37-61-309.

3-2-403. Fees. The clerk shall collect the following fees:

(1) for filing the notice of appeal in any civil case appealed to the supreme court, $100 payable by both the appellant and cross-appellant;
(2) for filing a petition for any writ, $100;
(3) for retrieval of court records from the secretary of state, actual fees charged by the secretary of state;
(4) for a certificate of good standing as an attorney, $5;
(5) for preparing copies of documents on file, 15 cents a page;
(6) for each certified copy under seal, $1.

History: En. Sec. 872, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 301, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 372, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 372, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 218, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-503(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Disposition of fees — pension trust fund, 19-5-404.
Fees of Clerk of District Court, 25-1-201.

3-2-404. Disposition of fees. Except as otherwise provided by law, all fees collected by the clerk must be paid into the state treasury and must be credited to the general fund.

History: En. Sec. 872, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 301, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 372, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 372, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 218, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-503(2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 287, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Disposition of fees — pension trust fund, 19-5-404.

3-2-405. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 28, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 874, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 303, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 374, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 374, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-505.

3-2-406. Deputy clerk. The clerk of the supreme court shall appoint a deputy who, in the absence of the principal or in the case of vacancy in the office, shall perform all the duties of office until the disability is removed or the vacancy is filled. The deputy shall subscribe, take, and file the oath of office provided by law for other state officers before entering upon the performance of the duties.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 143, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 122, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 122, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-601(part); amd. Sec. 164, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Part 5
Marshal of the Supreme Court

3-2-501. Appointment of marshal and other employees. (1) The supreme court shall appoint a marshal of the supreme court and may appoint other attendants, reporters, and clerks that are necessary, who hold office at the pleasure of the court.

(2) The marshal and other persons appointed under subsection (1) are employees of the judicial branch of state government, are subject to classification and compensation as determined by the judicial branch personnel plan adopted by the supreme court under 3-1-130, and must receive state employee benefits and expenses as provided in Title 2, chapter 18.

History: En. Sec. 862, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 295, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 366, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 366, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1801; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 585, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Physical facilities together with attendants, 3-2-304.
Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.
Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.

3-2-502. Duties of marshal. (1) It is the duty of the marshal to be present and to assist the supreme court and the justices of the supreme court at each term of court. The marshal is the executive officer of the court and shall act as crier of the court.

(2) The marshal shall serve within the state all returns and processes issuing from the supreme court and has all the powers and shall exercise all the duties that sheriffs have to the district courts to the extent that the duties are applicable.

(3) The marshal shall act as a law clerk for the supreme court justices.

History: En. Sec. 863, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 296, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 367, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 367, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 38, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1802; amd. Sec. 165, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-2-503. Accounts of marshal. All accounts of the marshal must be filed in the supreme court in a bill of items under oath certified by the chief justice and, when properly chargeable against the state and approved by the department of administration, must be paid out of the state treasury upon the warrant of the state treasurer.

History: En. Sec. 865, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 298, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 369, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 369, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1804; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 325, L. 1995.

Part 6
Form and Reporting of Decisions

3-2-601. Decisions to be in writing. In the determination of causes, all decisions of the supreme court must be given in writing, the grounds of the decision must be stated, and each justice agreeing or concurring with the decision must so indicate by signing the decision. Any justice disagreeing with a decision must so indicate by written dissent.

History: En. Sec. 440, p. 132, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 597, p. 157, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 17, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6249, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8801, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 49; re-en. Sec. 8801, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-212.

3-2-602. Justices to report decisions. The justices of the supreme court shall report the decisions of the supreme court.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 72, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 314, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 378, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Secs. 767-782; re-en. Sec. 378, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 182, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 82-2001.

3-2-603. Duties of reporters. The reporters of the decisions of the supreme court shall make careful and accurate reports of the cases decided by the supreme court. The reports of the cases must be made under the supervision of and pursuant to rules adopted by the justices of the supreme court.

History: En. Sec. 891, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 307, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 379, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 379, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 305, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 326, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 82-2002; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 494, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Power to contract for state printing, 18-7-101.

3-2-604. Distribution of reports. (1) On the publication of each volume of the reports, the supreme court shall purchase and distribute:

(a) each volume to each justice of the supreme court and to each district court judge; and

(b) four copies of each volume to the law library of the state of Montana.

(2) All reports distributed pursuant to subsection (1) are for the use of the office and must be turned over to the successor in office.

History: **En. Sec. 896, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 312, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 384, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 384, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 46, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 494, L. 1981; amd. sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 28, L. 1997.**

3-2-605. Responsibilities of supreme court for security of data and information. The supreme court is responsible for ensuring an adequate level of security for data, as defined in 2-15-102, within the judicial branch. In carrying out this responsibility, the supreme court shall, at a minimum:

(1) address the responsibilities prescribed in 2-15-114; and

(2) develop written minimum standards and guidelines for the judicial branch to follow in developing its security program.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 592, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 114, L. 2003.**

Part 7
Adoption of Rules of Civil Procedure

Part Cross-References

Supreme Court's power to make rules, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

3-2-701. Power of court over rules. The supreme court of this state shall have the power to regulate the pleading, practice, procedure, and the forms thereof in civil actions in all courts of this state by rules promulgated by it from time to time for the purpose of simplifying judicial proceedings in the courts of Montana and for promoting the speedy determination of litigation upon its merits. Such rules shall not abridge, enlarge, or modify the substantive rights of any litigant and shall not be inconsistent with the constitution of the state of Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2801-1.**

3-2-702. Advisory committee. Before any rules are adopted, the supreme court shall appoint an advisory committee consisting of eight members of the bar of the state and at least three judges of the district court to assist the court in considering and preparing such rules as it may adopt.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 16, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2801-2.**

3-2-703. Distribution of proposed rules — suggestions of bench and bar. (1) Before any rule is adopted, the supreme court shall distribute copies of the proposed rule to the bench and bar of the state for their consideration and suggestions and shall give due consideration to such suggestions as they may submit to the court.

(2) The state bar of Montana or the association of Montana judges may file with the supreme court a petition specifying its suggestions concerning any existing or proposed rule and requesting a hearing thereon within 6 months after the filing of the petition.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 16, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2801-3.**

3-2-704. Local rules. A district court may adopt rules of court governing its practice so long as the rules are not in conflict with the rules promulgated by the supreme court of the state of Montana in accordance with this part.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 16, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2801-4; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 10, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Rules for courts of record, 3-1-112.

3-2-705. No effect on powers of boards or commissions. This part shall not affect the power of any constitutional or statutory commission or board to make rules governing its practice.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 16, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2801-5.**

3-2-706. Effect on existing laws and rules. All present laws and rules relating to pleading, practice, and procedure shall be effective as rules of court until modified or superseded by subsequent court rule. Upon the adoption of any rule pursuant to this part, such laws and rules insofar as they are in conflict therewith shall thereafter be of no further force and effect.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 16, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2801-6.**

3-2-707. When rules effective. All rules promulgated under this part shall be effective at a time fixed by the supreme court.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 16, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2801-7.**

3-2-708. No abridgment of legislative power. This part shall not abridge the right of the legislature to enact, modify, or repeal any statute or modify or repeal any rule of the supreme court adopted pursuant thereto.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 16, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2801-8.

Cross-References

Supreme Court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

3-2-709 through 3-2-713 reserved.

3-2-714. Civil legal assistance for indigent victims of domestic violence account. (1) There is a civil legal assistance for indigent victims of domestic violence account in the state special revenue fund. There must be paid into this account the filing fees paid under 25-1-201(3)(a) and (5). The money in the account must be used solely for the purpose of providing legal representation for indigent victims in civil matters in domestic violence cases and for alternative dispute resolution initiatives in family law cases. Money in the account may not be used for class action lawsuits.

(2) The supreme court administrator shall establish procedures for the distribution and accountability of money in the account. The supreme court administrator may designate nonprofit organizations that ordinarily render or finance legal services to indigent persons in civil matters in domestic violence cases to receive or administer the distribution of the funds.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 386, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 408, L. 2005.

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Part 1
Definition of Districts and Assignment of Judges

3-5-101. Judicial districts defined. In this state, there are 22 judicial districts, distributed as follows:

(1) 1st district: Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties;
(2) 2nd district: Silver Bow County;
(3) 3rd district: Deer Lodge, Granite, and Powell Counties;
(4) 4th district: Missoula and Mineral Counties;
(5) 5th district: Beaverhead, Jefferson, and Madison Counties;
(6) 6th district: Park and Sweet Grass Counties;
(7) 7th district: Dawson, McCone, Richland, Prairie, and Wibaux Counties;
(8) 8th district: Cascade County;

(9) 9th district: Teton, Pondera, Toole, and Glacier Counties;

(10) 10th district: Fergus, Judith Basin, and Petroleum Counties;

(11) 11th district: Flathead County;

(12) 12th district: Liberty, Hill, and Chouteau Counties;

(13) 13th district: Yellowstone County;

(14) 14th district: Meagher, Wheatland, Golden Valley, and Musselshell Counties;

(15) 15th district: Roosevelt, Daniels, and Sheridan Counties;

(16) 16th district: Custer, Carter, Fallon, Powder River, Garfield, Treasure, and Rosebud Counties;

(17) 17th district: Phillips, Blaine, and Valley Counties;

(18) 18th district: Gallatin County;

(19) 19th district: Lincoln County;

(20) 20th district: Lake and Sanders Counties;

(21) 21st district: Ravalli County;

(22) 22nd district: Stillwater, Carbon, and Big Horn Counties.

History: En. Sec. 6256, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8812, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 8812, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 517, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-301; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 642, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 454, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Legislative determination of judicial districts, Art. VII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.

3-5-102. Number of judges. In each judicial district, there must be the following number of judges of the district court:

(1) in the 2nd, 7th, 16th, 20th, and 21st districts, two judges each;

(2) in the 1st, 8th, and 18th districts, four judges each;

(3) in the 4th and 11th districts, five judges each;

(4) in the 13th district, eight judges; and

(5) in all other districts, one judge each.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 156, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 6264, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8813, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 91, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 8813, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 344, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 517, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-302(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 542, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 293, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 454, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 497, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 357, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 566, L. 2021.

3-5-103 through 3-5-110 reserved.

3-5-111. District courts presided over by judges of other districts. A judge of the district court of any judicial district may hold the district court in any county of another district at the request of the judge of the other district or as otherwise provided by law. A district judge shall hold the district court in a county of another district if so requested by the chief justice. The judge holding the court in the other district has the same power as within the judge's own district.

History: En. Sec. 36, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6270, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8821, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 71; re-en. Sec. 8821, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-310; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Disqualification and substitution of judges, Title 3, ch. 1, part 8.
Jurisdiction of judges coextensive with state, 3-5-312.
Conduct of business in multicounty districts, 3-5-402.

3-5-112. Authority of chief justice. (1) The chief justice may by written order assign a district judge to hold court in a county of another district if:

(a) for any cause a district court in another district is not or cannot be held in any county by a judge of the other district or acting for the other district; or

(b) the business of the court in the other district is not or cannot be dispatched with reasonable promptness.

(2) A district judge assigned to another district pursuant to subsection (1) shall hold court in the other district for the time specified in the order.

History: En. Sec. 164, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6312, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8823, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8823, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-312; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 110, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Jurisdiction of judges coextensive with state, 3-5-312.

3-5-113. Judges pro tempore — special masters — scope of authority in criminal and civil cases. (1) (a) A civil action in the district court may be tried by a judge pro tempore or special master, who must be a member of the bar of the state, agreed upon in writing by the parties litigant or their attorneys of record, appointed by the court as provided in 3-5-115, 3-20-102, or 16-12-115, and sworn to try the cause before entering upon the duties in trying the cause.

(b) The judge pro tempore or special master has the authority and power of an elected district court judge in the particular civil action tried in the manner provided for in this subsection (1). All proceedings before a judge pro tempore or special master must be conducted in accordance with the rules of evidence and procedure governing district courts.

(c) Any order, judgment, or decree made or rendered in a civil case by the judge pro tempore or special master has the same force and effect as if made or rendered by the district court with the regular judge presiding.

(2) (a) Preliminary, nondispositive proceedings in criminal actions in a district court may be conducted by a judge pro tempore or special master. The judge pro tempore or special master in a criminal case must be appointed by a district court judge or judges as provided in 3-5-122.

(b) All proceedings before a judge pro tempore or special master in a criminal case must be conducted in accordance with the rules of evidence and procedure governing district courts.

(c) The judge pro tempore or special master in a criminal case has the authority and power of a district court judge to issue orders pursuant to Title 46, chapter 9, concerning bail and conditions of release or detention of persons pending trial, and to conduct arraignments, initial appearances on warrants, and initial appearances on probation revocations. An order made by the judge pro tempore or special master in a criminal case has the same force and effect as if made by a district court judge.

(d) Within 10 days after issuance of an order by a judge pro tempore or special master in a criminal case, a party may object to the order as provided by rules of court and a district court judge shall make a de novo determination of that portion of the order to which objection is made. The district court judge may accept, reject, or modify the order in whole or in part. The district court judge may also receive further evidence or recommit the matter to the judge pro tempore or special master with instructions.

(e) All proceedings before a judge pro tempore or special master in a criminal case must be conducted in a suitable room in the courthouse, subject to the provisions of Title 46 relating to the use of two-way electronic audio-video communication. All records must be filed and kept in accordance with the rules governing the district court.

History: En. Sec. 37, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6271, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8822, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 72; re-en. Sec. 8822, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-311; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 663, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 394, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 473, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Jurisdiction of judges coextensive with state, 3-5-312.
Conduct of business in multicounty districts, 3-5-402.

3-5-114. Qualifications. Any of the following individuals may act as a judge pro tempore:

(1) a member of the bar of the state who meets the qualifications for judge of the district court as provided in 3-5-202;
(2) a retired judge of the district court;
(3) a justice of the peace for a justice's court of record, provided for in 3-10-101;
(4) a municipal court judge; or
(5) a retired justice of the supreme court.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 663, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 557, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Judge pro tempore's right to judicial retirement allowance, 19-5-501.

3-5-115. Agreement, petition, and appointment of judge pro tempore — waiver of jury trial. (1) Prior to trial and upon written agreement of all the parties to a civil action, the parties may petition for the appointment of a judge pro tempore. Except as provided in 3-20-102, if the district court judge having jurisdiction over the case where the action was filed finds that the appointment is in the best interest of the parties and serves justice, the district court judge may appoint the judge pro tempore nominated by the parties to preside over the whole action or any aspect of the action as if the regular district court judge were presiding.

(2) Except as provided in 3-20-102, an appointment of a judge pro tempore constitutes a waiver of the right to trial by jury by any party having the right.

(3) The supreme court shall appoint the asbestos claims judge as provided in 3-20-102.

(4) The supreme court shall appoint a judge to determine the expungement or resentencing of marijuana convictions as provided in 16-12-115.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 663, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 473, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 166, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

3-5-116. Compensation — expenses. (1) The salary of the judge pro tempore or special master and the court reporter and all other expenses associated with the trial are the responsibility of the parties to the action. The amount of salaries and other expenses and the manner of payment must be established by written agreement.

(2) The judge pro tempore or special master may not withhold judgment as security for compensation.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 663, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 394, L. 1995.

3-5-117. Rooms — records. (1) Each trial before a judge pro tempore must be conducted in a suitable room in the courthouse in the judicial district where the action was filed, unless the parties or their attorneys stipulate in writing that the trial may be held elsewhere.

(2) All records must be filed and kept in accordance with the rules governing the district court where the action was filed.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 663, L. 1987.

3-5-118. Appeals. An appeal from a final judgment of a judge pro tempore must be made in the same manner as an appeal from a final judgment of the district court.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 663, L. 1987.

3-5-119 through 3-5-121 reserved.

3-5-122. Judge pro tempore or special master in criminal cases — appointment. (1) One or more judges of a judicial district may designate a judge pro tempore or a special master in a criminal case to hear and determine any preliminary, nondispositive matter pending in a criminal case before the court if the district court judge or judges find that the appointment serves justice.

(2) Any of the following individuals may act as a special master in a criminal case:

(a) a justice of the peace or a city judge;

(b) a retired district court judge;

(c) a retired supreme court justice; or

(d) a member of the state bar.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1995.

3-5-123. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 356, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1999.

3-5-124. Standing masters — reference — powers. (1) A reference to a standing master must be made at the judge's discretion or by standing order of the district court. All standing orders of reference under this section must be posted in a conspicuous place on the district court's or the judicial branch's website.

(2) A party may object to a reference to a standing master within 20 days after the date the matter was referred to the standing master but before the first meeting with the standing master. On objection, the district court shall refer the matter to another standing master in the judicial district or return the matter to the active docket of the district court.

(3) (a) The order of reference to the standing master must specify or limit the standing master's powers and must direct the standing master to present written findings of fact and conclusions of law on particular issues for the consideration of the district court. Subject to the specifications and limitations stated in the order, the standing master shall regulate all proceedings in each hearing before the standing master and implement measures necessary for the efficient performance of the standing master's duties under the order.

(b) The standing master may:

(i) require the production of evidence on all matters embraced in the reference, including the production of all books, papers, vouchers, documents, and writings that are applicable;

(ii) rule on the admissibility of evidence unless otherwise directed by the order of reference. The standing master's rulings must be in accordance with Montana law and the Montana Rules of Evidence, as applicable.

(iii) put witnesses on oath and permit their examination;

(iv) call the parties to the action and permit their examination under oath; and

(v) issue temporary orders that are subject to review by the district court, on objection by a party to the action.

(c) The standing master shall make a record of the evidence offered and excluded in the same manner and subject to the same limitations as provided in the Montana Rules of Evidence for a court sitting without a jury. Audio and video recordings are acceptable means of record so long as a master recording is properly preserved and can be transcribed for district court and appellate review.

(4) A standing master shall apply all applicable laws and follow the applicable rules of the judicial district in which the matter is filed.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 167, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 604, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 604, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

3-5-125. Standing masters — proceedings — meetings — witnesses — statements of account. (1) When a reference is made, the clerk shall immediately furnish the standing master with a copy of the order of reference. Unless the order of reference otherwise provides, the standing master shall set a time and place for the first meeting of the parties or their attorneys to be held within 20 days after the expiration of the objection period in 3-5-124(2) and shall notify the parties or their attorneys. The standing master shall have the authority to issue temporary orders before the expiration of the objection period in 3-5-124(2). The standing master shall proceed with all reasonable diligence throughout the proceedings. Either party, on notice to the parties and standing master, may apply to the district court for an order requiring the standing master to speed the proceedings and to make the report of its findings of fact and conclusions of law. If a party fails to appear at the time and place appointed, the standing master may proceed ex parte or, in the standing master's discretion, adjourn the proceedings to a future day, giving notice to the absent party of the adjournment.

(2) The parties may procure the attendance of witnesses before the standing master by the issuance and service of subpoenas as provided in Rule 45 of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. If, without adequate excuse, a witness fails to appear or give evidence, the witness may be punished for a contempt and be subjected to the consequences, penalties, and remedies provided in Rules 37 and 45 of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

(3) When matters of accounting are in issue before the standing master, the standing master may prescribe the form in which the accounts must be submitted and may require or receive in evidence a statement by a certified public accountant who is called as a witness. On objection of a party to any of the items submitted or on a showing that the form of statement is insufficient, the standing master may require a different form of statement to be furnished or the accounts or specific items to be proved by oral examination of the accounting parties or on written interrogatories or in any other manner as the standing master directs.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 167, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 604, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 604, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

3-5-126. Standing masters — findings of fact and conclusions of law — order — contents and filing — review — stipulations as to findings. (1) Subject to the order of reference, the standing master shall submit findings of fact and conclusions of law to the clerk of court, following a hearing on the matters submitted to the standing master by the order of reference. If a party requests a hearing on a matter submitted to the standing master, the standing master shall hold a hearing. When a hearing is not required, the standing master shall submit findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a proposed order to the clerk of court on the matters submitted to the standing master by the order of reference. The standing master shall file the findings of fact and conclusions of law or order with the clerk of the court and promptly serve copies on all parties in accordance with applicable law. All contested proceedings before the standing master must be audio or video recorded. The standing master shall, at the expense of the district court, file a recording of the proceedings and of the evidence and the original exhibits. The record of the proceedings before the standing master must be made available to the public to the same extent other records of the district court are available to the public. The reasonable cost of the preparation of a duplicate of the recording is the responsibility of the objecting party. The objecting party shall serve a copy of the duplicate recording on adverse parties.

(2) Within 10 days after being served with notice of the filing of the findings of fact and conclusions of law or order, any party may file and serve written specific objections or apply to the district court for an extension. The district court, after a hearing, if requested, may adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law or order and may modify, reject in whole or in part, receive further evidence, or recommit the matter to the standing master with instructions. If a party seeks to admit further evidence and the request is denied, the party may make an offer of proof with affidavits and additional proposed exhibits.

(3) When the parties stipulate that a standing master's findings of fact are final, only questions of law arising on the findings of fact and conclusions of law may be considered.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 167, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 604, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 604, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

3-5-127. Appointment of standing masters — qualifications — disqualification. (1) A judicial district may appoint or reappoint one or more standing masters for its district with the concurrence of a majority of the judges in the district.

(2) A standing master must be:

(a) admitted to practice law in Montana for at least 3 years prior to the date of appointment;

(b) a member of good standing in the state bar of Montana; and

(c) determined by the appointing judicial district to be competent to perform the duties of the office.

(3) The judicial district shall provide public notice of all vacancies or proposed reappointments in standing master positions.

(4) A standing master shall take the oath required of judges and follow the Montana code of judicial conduct.

(5) An appointed standing master is an employee of the district court under 3-5-901.

(6) A standing master is subject to disqualification from proceeding on a matter on the same grounds as any other judicial officer. On disqualification of a standing master, the district court shall either refer the matter to another standing master in the judicial district or move the case back to its active docket for further proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 604, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 8, Ch. 604, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 18, 2023.

Part 2
District Court Judges

Part Cross-References

Judicial vacancies, Title 3, ch. 1, part 9.
Montana judges' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 5.
Assault on peace officer or judicial officer, 45-5-210.

3-5-201. Election and oath of office. (1) The judges of the district court, except judges pro tempore, must be elected by the qualified voters of the district.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (1), each judge of a district court shall, as soon as the judge has taken and subscribed the official oath, file the official oath in the office of the secretary of state.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, p. 156, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 6264, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8813, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 91, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 8813, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 344, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 517, L. 1977; Sec. 93-302, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1014, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 366, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 434, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 909; re-en. Sec. 434, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 1949; Sec. 59-417, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 59-417(3), 93-302(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 663, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 167, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-5-202. Qualifications and residence. (1) A person is not eligible for the office of judge of a district court unless the person is a citizen of the United States, has resided in the state 2 years immediately before taking office, and has been admitted to practice law in Montana for at least 5 years prior to the date of appointment or election.

(2) A judge of a district court need not be a resident of the district for which the judge is elected or appointed at the time of election or appointment, but after election or appointment, the judge must reside in the district for which the judge is elected or appointed during the judge's term of office.

History: En. Sec. 161, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6309, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8863, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 157; re-en. Sec. 8863, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-702(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 406, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 168, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Qualifications of District Court Judges, Art. VII, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Determination of residency, 1-1-215.

3-5-203. Term of office. The term of office of judges of the district court is 6 years and begins on the first Monday of January next succeeding their election.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 33, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6267, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8818, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 68; re-en. Sec. 8818, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-307, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 1, p. 156, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 6264, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8813, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 91, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 8813, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 344, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 517, L. 1977; Sec. 93-302, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-302(part), 93-307.

Cross-References

Salary and term of District Court Judges, Art. VII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

3-5-204. Computation of term of office. The years during which a judge of a district court is to hold office are to be computed respectively from and including the first Monday of January of any one year to and excluding the first Monday of January of the next succeeding year.

History: En. Sec. 34, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6268, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8819, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 69; re-en. Sec. 8819, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-308.

3-5-205 through 3-5-210 reserved.

3-5-211. Salaries and expenses of district court judges. (1) Prior to June 30 of each even-numbered year, the department of administration shall conduct a salary survey of judges of courts of general jurisdiction similar to the Montana district courts for the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Idaho. The department shall include the salary for a Montana district court judge in determining the average salary. If the average salary is greater than the salary for a district court judge in Montana, then beginning July 1 of the year following the year in which the survey is conducted, the average salary is the new salary for that position. A district court judge's salary may not be reduced.

(2) Actual and necessary expenses for each district court judge are the travel expenses, as defined and provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred in the performance of the district court judge's official duties.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 8814, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8814, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 198, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 212, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 308, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 377, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 461, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-303; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 651, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 605, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 656, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 693, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 462, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 656, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Salary and term of District Court Judges, Art. VII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Salaries of Supreme Court Justices, 2-16-403.
County levy for District Court expenses, 7-6-2511.
Fees of Clerk of District Court, 25-1-201.

3-5-212. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 3, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 8815, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8815, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-304(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 375, L. 1981.

3-5-213. Expenses when out of district. A district court judge who sits in the place of another judge in the trial or hearing of an action or proceeding in a district other than the judge's own or in the supreme court or who attends a conference of judges in Helena called by the chief justice of the supreme court must be paid the judge's actual and necessary travel expenses, as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, while engaged in that service as follows:

(1) travel expenses from the county seat of the county in which the judge resides to the place of trial, hearing, or conference and return; and

(2) board and lodging while engaged in the trial, hearing, or conference.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1907; re-en. Sec. 293, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8816, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8816, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-305; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 169, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

County levy for District Court expenses, 7-6-2511.

3-5-214. Certification and filing of expense claim. As soon as a district court judge's services in connection with the trial, hearing, or conference referred to in 3-5-213 are concluded, the judge shall certify in detail the judge's actual and necessary travel expenses as specified in 3-5-213 and shall file the claim with the state to be processed as provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 3, L. 1907; re-en. Sec. 294, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8817, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8817, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 97, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-306; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 170, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-5-215. Expenses when not in county of residence. A district court judge of a judicial district composed of more than one county who, for the purpose of holding court and disposing of judicial business, goes to a county of that judicial district other than the county in which the judge resides and holds court or transacts judicial business must be paid the actual and necessary travel expenses, as defined and provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred on account of the business from the time the judge leaves the judge's place of residence until the judge returns to the place of residence.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 8824, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8824, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 455, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-313; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 171, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

County levy for District Court expenses, 7-6-2511.

3-5-216. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 91, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 8825, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8825, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 97, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-314; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 528, L. 1979.

Part 3
District Court Jurisdiction

Part Cross-References

District Court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Montana Youth Court Act, Title 41, ch. 5.
Driver's license seized by peace officer — right of appeal to court, 61-8-1017.

3-5-301. Kinds of jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the district court is of two kinds:

(1) original; and

(2) appellate.

History: En. Sec. 40, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6274, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8828, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 75; re-en. Sec. 8828, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-317.

Cross-References

City attorney to prosecute appeals, 3-11-301.
Appeal from Justice's or City Court, 25-33-301.
Appeal from Small Claims Court, 25-35-803.

3-5-302. Original jurisdiction. (1) The district court has original jurisdiction in:

(a) all criminal cases amounting to felony;

(b) all civil and probate matters;

(c) all cases at law and in equity;

(d) all cases of misdemeanor not otherwise provided for; and

(e) all special actions and proceedings that are not otherwise provided for.

(2) The district court has concurrent original jurisdiction with the justice's court in the following criminal cases amounting to misdemeanor:

(a) misdemeanors arising at the same time as and out of the same transaction as a felony or misdemeanor offense charged in district court;

(b) misdemeanors resulting from the reduction of a felony or misdemeanor offense charged in the district court; and

(c) misdemeanors resulting from a finding of a lesser included offense in a felony or misdemeanor case tried in district court.

(3) The district court has exclusive original jurisdiction in all civil actions that might result in a judgment against the state for the payment of money.

(4) The district court has the power of naturalization and of issuing papers for naturalization in all cases where it is authorized to do so by the laws of the United States.

(5) The district court and its judges have power to issue, hear, and determine writs of mandamus, quo warranto, certiorari, prohibition, and injunction, other original remedial writs, and all writs of habeas corpus on petition by or on behalf of any person held in actual custody in their respective districts. Injunctions and writs of prohibition and habeas corpus may be issued and served on legal holidays and nonjudicial days.

History: En. Sec. 41, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6275, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8829, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 76; re-en. Sec. 8829, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-318; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 594, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 540, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 481, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Right to habeas corpus, Art. II, sec. 19, Mont. Const.
Legal holidays, 1-1-216.
Nonjudicial days for certain purposes, 3-1-302.
Exception to District Court jurisdiction over injunctions, 3-2-205.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Writ of review (certiorari), 27-25-102.
Writ of mandamus, 27-26-102.
Writ of prohibition, 27-27-102.
Proceeding for unlawful assertion of authority, 27-28-101.
Youth Court — filing in District Court, 41-5-206.
Youth Court — transfer of supervisory responsibility to District Court after juvenile disposition, 41-5-208.
Youth Court — Extended Jurisdiction Prosecution Act, Title 41, ch. 5, part 16.
Jurisdiction of all public offenses not otherwise provided for, 46-2-201.
Habeas corpus — rights and procedures, Title 46, ch. 22.
Jurisdiction of probate and succession matters, 72-1-202.
Jurisdiction over action for injury in another state caused by pollution originating in Montana, Title 75, ch. 16, part 1.

3-5-303. Appellate jurisdiction. The district court has appellate jurisdiction in cases arising in justices' courts and other courts of limited jurisdiction in their respective districts as may be prescribed by law and consistent with the constitution.

History: En. Sec. 42, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6276, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8830, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 77; re-en. Sec. 8830, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-319; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 466, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 430, L. 2019.

Cross-References

City attorney to prosecute appeals, 3-11-301.
Appeal of decisions of school district trustees, 20-3-210.
Waiver of undertaking requirements for indigents, 25-33-201.
Appeal to District Court tried anew, 25-33-301, 46-17-311.
Appeal from Justices', Municipal, and City Courts, 46-17-311.

3-5-304. Process. The process of the district court extends to all parts of the state.

History: En. Sec. 43, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6277, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8831, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 78; re-en. Sec. 8831, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-320(part).

3-5-305 through 3-5-310 reserved.

3-5-311. Powers of judges at chambers. (1) The judge of the district court may at chambers:

(a) issue, hear, and determine writs of mandamus, quo warranto, certiorari, prohibition, and injunction, other original and remedial writs, and all writs of habeas corpus on petition by or on behalf of any person held in actual custody in the judicial district;

(b) grant all orders and writs that are usually granted in the first instance upon an ex parte application and hear and dispose of those orders and writs;

(c) hear and determine any matter necessary in the exercise of the judge's powers in matters of probate or in any action or proceeding provided by law and any action in which all party defendants have made default;

(d) issue any process, make any order, and make and enter any default judgment; and

(e) consolidate jurisdiction in district court over a civil action or proceeding filed in a justice's court, a municipal court, a city court, or the small claims division of a justice's court when the civil action or proceeding arose out of the same transaction or occurrence as a case pending in district court.

(2) When default judgments are entered in default cases, the judge shall forward to the clerk of the court of the county in which the action is pending the judgment, together with a minute entry of the proceedings. The clerk shall incorporate the judgment and minute entry into the minutes of the court.

(3) If a jury is necessary, the judge may open court and obtain a jury as in other cases.

History: En. Sec. 477, p. 138, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 624, p. 161, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 684, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 704, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 171, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6314, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8867, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 166; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 8867, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-802; amd. Sec. 173, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 409, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 409, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 4, Ch. 409, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to proceedings begun on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Right to habeas corpus, Art. II, sec. 19, Mont. Const.
Injunctions, 3-2-205.
Clerk to attend judge at chambers, 3-5-501.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Writ of review (certiorari), 27-25-102.
Writ of mandamus, 27-26-102.
Writ of prohibition, 27-27-102.
Habeas corpus — rights and procedures, Title 46, ch. 22.

3-5-312. Jurisdiction of judges coextensive with the state. (1) The jurisdiction of the judges of the district courts of the state of Montana in rendering and signing judgments, making findings and rendering decrees, and making orders to show cause and all ex parte orders, in chambers, shall be coextensive with the boundaries of the state of Montana as to all matters presented to or heard by them and of which they have jurisdiction.

(2) Such judgments, findings, decrees, and orders, when so rendered, made, or signed, shall have the same force and effect as to matters under their jurisdiction as if done in open court in the county in which the action, proceeding, or matter is pending or was heard.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 8867.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-803.

Cross-References

District Courts presided over by judges of other districts, 3-5-111.
Judges pro tempore — special masters, 3-5-113.
Conduct of business in multicounty districts, 3-5-402.
What considered adjudged in judgment, 26-3-102.

3-5-313. Removal to district court. (1) A party desiring to remove a civil action from a justice's court, a municipal court, a city court, or the small claims division of a justice's court shall file in the district court of the judicial district in which the action is pending a notice of removal containing a short and plain statement of the grounds for removal with a copy of the summons and any complaints served on the party in the action.

(2) Civil actions or proceedings may be removed for the following reasons:

(a) the amount in controversy exceeds the $15,000 jurisdictional limit for justices' courts provided in 3-10-301 and applied to municipal courts in 3-6-103; or

(b) the civil action or proceeding filed in a justice's court, a municipal court, a city court, or the small claims division of a justice's court arose out of the same transaction or occurrence as a civil action or proceeding pending in district court.

(3) (a) Promptly after the filing of a notice of removal of a civil action or proceeding, the party shall give written notice to all parties and shall file a copy of the notice with the clerk of the district court in which the civil action or proceeding is to be tried.

(b) The notice of removal effectuates the removal, and the justice's court, municipal court, city court, or small claims division of a justice's court may not proceed any further unless the case is remanded.

(c) On receiving notice of removal, the justice's court, municipal court, city court, or small claims division of a justice's court shall transmit the pleadings and all papers in the action to the clerk of the district court immediately.

(4) If a party believes the removal is improper, the party shall file a motion to remand within 20 days of service of the notice of removal.

(5) A party who files a notice to remove a civil action to district court under this section shall pay all costs and fees of filing the papers in the district court pursuant to 25-1-201.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 4, Ch. 409, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to proceedings begun on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective October 1, 2023.

Part 4
Terms and Location of District Courts

3-5-401. Terms of court. (1) The district court of each county that is a separate judicial district does not have terms and must always be open for the transaction of business except on legal holidays and nonjudicial days.

(2) (a) In each district that is located in two or more counties, the district court judge shall fix the term of court in each county in the district and there must be at least four terms a year in each county. Any order of the judge fixing terms of court must be filed in the office of the clerk of the district court in each county of the district, and the order remains in effect until further order of the judge.

(b) This section may not be construed to prevent the calling of a special term of court, with or without a jury, when in the opinion of the presiding judge the special term is necessary.

(c) The district court judge may adjourn a term of district court in one county to a future day certain and in the meantime hold court in another county.

History: En. Sec. 38, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, p. 156, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 6272, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8826, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 73; re-en. Sec. 8826, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 93-315(part); amd. Sec. 174, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Legal holidays, 1-1-216.

Nonjudicial days for certain purposes, 3-1-302.

3-5-402. Adjournments — conduct of business in multicounty districts. (1) Adjournments from day to day or from time to time are to be construed as recesses in the session or term and shall not prevent the court from sitting at any time.

(2) In districts where two or more counties are united, court may be held, causes tried with or without a jury, and business transacted in any and all of the counties of the district continuously and simultaneously, with or without recesses, and without regard to the beginning or ending of any of the terms in any of the counties of the district.

(3) The judge of such district may hold court in one county of such district, try causes with or without a jury, and transact business, while at the same time court may be held, causes tried with or without a jury, and business transacted in any other county of such district by the same judge or by any other district judge of the state, when requested or assigned thereto under any of the provisions of the statutes of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 39, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6273, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8827, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8827, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 144, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 93-316.

3-5-403. Terms and departments in multijudge districts. (1) In each judicial district that has more than one judge, as many terms or sessions of court may be held at the same time as there are judges in the district.

(2) The judges elected or appointed to hold office in each judicial district having more than one judge shall divide the court into departments, prescribe the order of business, and make rules for the government of the court. Each department must be numbered, and each judge must be assigned to one of the numbered departments.

(3) The judges shall apportion the business of the court among themselves as equally as possible. In case of their failure for any cause to make the apportionment or to assign each judge to a numbered department, the supreme court, upon application of any interested person, shall make an order apportioning the business and assigning each judge to a numbered department and cause the order to be entered upon the minute book of the district court in each county in the district. The order remains in full force and effect until modified or repealed by the authority making it. The failure or refusal of any district judge to carry out the terms of the order constitutes a contempt of the supreme court.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 44, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6278, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8832, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8832, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-321; (4)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 542, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 18, L. 1995.

3-5-404. Repealed. Sec. 52, Ch. 585, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 142, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6302, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8856, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 144; re-en. Sec. 8856, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-513.

3-5-405. Change of place of holding court in emergency. (1) The judge of the district court authorized to hold or preside at a court appointed to be held at a particular place may, by an order filed with the clerk of the district court and published as the judge may prescribe, direct that the court be held or continued at any place in the county other than that appointed when war, insurrection, pestilence, or other public calamity, the danger of such a calamity, or the destruction or danger of the public building appointed for the holding the court may render it necessary.

(2) The district court judge may, in the same manner, revoke the order and may appoint another place in the same county for holding the court.

History: En. Sec. 140, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6300, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8854, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 142; re-en. Sec. 8854, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-511; amd. Sec. 175, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Seat and continuity of government during emergency, Art. III, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Disaster and emergency services, Title 10, ch. 3.

3-5-406. Parties to appear at place appointed. When the court is held at the place appointed, as provided in 3-5-405, every person held to appear at the court must appear at the place so appointed.

History: En. Sec. 141, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6301, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8855, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 143; re-en. Sec. 8855, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-512.

3-5-407. Sheriff to act as crier. The sheriff in attendance upon district court must act as the crier thereof, call the parties and witnesses and all other persons bound to appear before the court, and make proclamation of the opening and adjournment of the court and of any other matter under its direction.

History: En. Sec. 4397, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3026, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4790, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4189; re-en. Sec. 4790, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 16-2718; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 21, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Adjournment for absence of judge, 3-1-304, 3-1-305.

Duty of Constable similar to Sheriff, 3-10-702.

Part 5
Clerk of the District Court

Part Cross-References

Provision for Clerk of District Court, Art. XI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Limit on number of deputy District Court Clerks, 7-4-3006.

Membership in associations of Clerks of District Courts, 7-5-2143.

Mining — creation of trust for unlocatable owners — appointment of Clerk of Court as trustee, 82-1-302.

3-5-501. General duties — electronic filing and storage of court records. (1) The clerk of the district court, in addition to keeping the records and performing the duties prescribed elsewhere, shall:

(a) take charge of and safely keep or dispose of according to law all books, papers, and records that are filed or deposited in the clerk's office;

(b) act as clerk of the district court and attend each term or session of the court and upon the judges at chambers when required;

(c) issue all process and notices required to be issued;

(d) enter all orders, judgments, and decrees proper to be entered;

(e) keep in each court a register of actions, as provided in 3-5-504;

(f) keep for the district court two separate indexes, one labeled "General Index—Plaintiffs" and the other labeled "General Index—Defendants", which must be in the form prescribed in 3-5-502;

(g) keep a minute book, which must contain the daily proceedings of court, which may be signed by the clerk;

(h) keep a fee book, in which must be shown in an itemized form all fees received for any services rendered in the capacity as clerk.

(2) The clerk of the district court may elect to keep court documents by means of electronic filing or storage, or both, as provided in 3-1-114 and 3-1-115, in lieu of or in addition to keeping paper records.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 4440, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3048, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4204; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 344, L. 1977; Sec. 16-3001, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 4441, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3049, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4816, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4816, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 16-3002, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3001(part), 16-3002; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 174, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Clerk to include interest in judgment, 25-9-204.

Clerk to record returned execution when levy on real property, 25-13-405.

3-5-502. Indexes to court records. Each clerk of court in each county of the respective judicial districts of the state shall keep, in addition to the records required by law, an index called "General Index—Plaintiffs" and also a second index to be called "General Index—Defendants". Each index shall be in a form determined by the clerk to best fulfill the needs of the court and other users of the index and shall contain, at a minimum, those entries required by 3-5-503.

History: **En. Sec. 4442, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3050, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4817, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4817, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 104, L. 1981.**

3-5-503. Duties concerning indexes. The clerk of the district court shall cause to be made in each index correct entries, under the appropriate headings, of each action begun in the court of which the person is clerk. The entries must be made alphabetically by the name of the plaintiff in the General Index—Plaintiffs and alphabetically by the name of the defendants in the General Index—Defendants.

History: **En. Sec. 4443, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3051, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4818, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4818, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3004; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 104, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 176, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Clerk to record returned execution when levy on real property, 25-13-405.

3-5-504. Register of actions. The clerk of the district court shall keep among the records of the court a register of actions. The clerk shall enter in the register the title of the action with brief notes under it, from time to time, of all papers filed and proceedings had in the action. The register must also state the names of the attorneys and all fees charged in each action.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 499, p. 233, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 576, p. 153, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 517, p. 176, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 517, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 534, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1896, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7189, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9822, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1052; re-en. Sec. 9822, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-8707, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 4440, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3048, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4204; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 344, L. 1977; Sec. 16-3001, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3001(part), 93-8707; amd. Sec. 177, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

3-5-505. Register of criminal actions. The clerk of the district court shall keep a book called the "Register of Criminal Actions", which must have a proper index and in which must be entered the title and number of the action with a memorandum of every paper filed and order or proceeding had in the action, along with the date of the filing, order, or proceeding, and a memorandum of the name of every witness, the number of days that the witness attended, and the person's witness fees.

History: En. Sec. 4440, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3048, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4204; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3001(part); amd. Sec. 178, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-5-506. Index of bonds in criminal cases. Clerks of the district courts of the counties in the state of Montana shall keep proper books for indexing bonds given in criminal cases. All bonds filed therein shall be entered showing the title and docket number of the case in which such bond is filed, the names of principals and sureties on such bonds in alphabetical order, the date and amount of the bond, and upon its release, the date of the order or authority for such release.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 4818.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3005.

3-5-507. Judgment book. The clerk must keep with the records of the court a book to be called the "Judgment Book", in which judgments must be entered.

History: En. Sec. 201, p. 174, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 241, p. 77, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 292, p. 115, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 292, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 304, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1194, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6804, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9407, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 668; re-en. Sec. 9407, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-5705.

Cross-References

Clerk to include interest in judgment, 25-9-204.

3-5-508. Docket. The docket is a book that the clerk of the district court keeps in the clerk's office, with each page divided into eight columns and headed as follows: judgment debtors; judgment creditors; judgment, time of entry; where entered in judgment book; appeals, when taken; judgment of appellate court; and satisfaction of judgment, when entered. If a judgment is for the recovery of money or damages, the amount must be stated in the docket under the heading of judgment. If the judgment is for any other relief, a memorandum of the general character of the relief granted must be stated. The names of the defendants must be entered in alphabetical order.

History: En. Sec. 205, p. 174, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 245, p. 78, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 296, p. 116, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 296, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 308, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1198, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6808, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9411, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 672; re-en. Sec. 9411, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-5709; amd. Sec. 179, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Contents of docket in Justices' Courts, 3-10-501.

3-5-509. Docket to be available for inspection. The docket kept by the clerk of the district court is open at all times during office hours for the inspection of the public, without charge. The clerk shall arrange the several dockets kept by the clerk in a manner that facilitates their inspection.

History: En. Sec. 206, p. 174, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 246, p. 78, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 297, p. 116, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 297, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 309, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1199, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6809, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9412, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 673; re-en. Sec. 9412, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-5711; amd. Sec. 180, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-5-510. Duties relating to jurors and witnesses. The clerk of the district court shall keep a:

(1) "Witness Book", which must contain blank warrants as provided in 3-5-511; and

(2) record of the attendance of all jurors and witnesses in criminal actions and compute the amount due them for mileage. The distance from any point to the court must be determined by the shortest traveled route.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 4440, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3048, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4204; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 344, L. 1977; Sec. 16-3001, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 4645, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3179, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4937, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4937, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 25-405, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 4651, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3185, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4940, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4940, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 25-408, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3001(part), 25-405(part), 25-408; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Mileage allowance, 2-18-503, 2-18-504, 3-15-201.

Witness fees, Title 26, ch. 2, part 5.

Recognizance by or deposition of witness, 46-11-601.

Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 46, ch. 15, part 1.

3-5-511. Witnesses' warrants — state reimbursement. (1) The witnesses in criminal actions, witnesses called by a public defender, as defined in 47-1-103, and witnesses called in a grand jury proceeding shall report their presence to the clerk the first day they attend under the subpoena.

(2) At the time any witness is excused from further attendance, the clerk shall give to the witness a county warrant, signed by the clerk, in which must be stated the name of the witness, the number of days in attendance, the number of miles traveled, and the amount due pursuant to Title 26, chapter 2, part 5, and 46-15-116.

(3) The state shall reimburse the clerk for the amount specified in the warrant as follows:

(a) if the witness was subpoenaed by the prosecution in a criminal proceeding or in a grand jury or by an indigent defendant acting pro se, the amount must be reimbursed by the office of court administrator as provided in 3-5-901; or

(b) if the witness was subpoenaed by a public defender, the amount must be reimbursed by the office of state public defender as provided in 47-1-119.

History: **En. Sec. 4649, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3183, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4938, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4938, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 25-406; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 152, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 358, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

Travel expenses, 2-18-503, 2-18-504.
Witness fees, Title 26, ch. 2, part 5.
Criminal proceedings, 46-11-601; Title 46, ch. 15, part 1.

3-5-512. Statement to board of county commissioners concerning witnesses. The clerk must make a detailed statement containing a list of the witnesses and the amount of fees and mileage earned by each and file the same with the clerk of the board of county commissioners on the first day of every regular meeting of the board. No quarterly salary must be paid to the clerk until such statement is filed. The board must examine the statement and see that it is correct.

History: **En. Sec. 4650, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3184, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4939, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4939, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 25-407.**

Cross-References

Duties of Clerk as to jurors, 3-15-204.

3-5-513. Probate records. The clerk of the district court shall:

(1) keep a book called "Record of Probate Proceedings", which must contain all the orders and proceedings of the district court sitting in probate matters and must be indexed in the names of the deceased person or ward;

(2) keep a book called "Register of Probate and Guardianship Proceedings", in which must be entered the name of the estate and the register number with a memorandum of every paper filed and order or proceeding had therein, with the date thereof, and a memorandum of the fees charged.

History: **En. Sec. 4440, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3048, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4204; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3001(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 104, L. 1981.**

3-5-514. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, L. 2001.

History: **En. Sec. 4440, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3048, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4204; re-en. Sec. 4815, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3001(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 21, L. 1979.**

3-5-515. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, L. 2001.

History: **En. Sec. 1, p. 50, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 3146, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4894, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4894, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 25-210.**

3-5-516. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 1991.**

Part 6
Court Reporters

3-5-601. Court reporters — appointment — oath — employment status. (1) The judge of a district court may appoint a reporter for the court who is an officer of the court. The court reporter shall take the constitutional oath of office and file it with the clerk of court. In districts where there are two or more judges, each judge may appoint a reporter. The judge shall direct the performance of the court reporter's duties.

(2) Court reporter services may be provided by a court reporter appointed:

(a) as a state employee foregoing transcription fees;

(b) as a state employee retaining transcription fees; or

(c) as an independent contractor.

(3) A court reporter appointed under subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b) is subject to classification and compensation as determined by the judicial branch personnel plan adopted under 3-1-130 and must receive state employee benefits and expenses as provided in Title 2, chapter 18.

(4) (a) If a court reporter is appointed under subsection (2)(a), the state shall provide all equipment and supplies for the reporter's use. Any transcription fees paid for the reporter's transcription services must be forwarded to the department of revenue for deposit in the state general fund.

(b) If a court reporter is appointed under subsection (2)(b), the state shall provide equipment and supplies for the reporter's use, except that the reporter shall provide and maintain all equipment and supplies for performance of transcription duties unless equipment is shared as provided in subsection (5). A reporter may not receive overtime for time spent on preparation of transcripts for which the reporter retains fees. The reporter shall retain all transcription fees paid for the reporter's transcription services.

(c) A court reporter appointed under subsection (2)(c) shall contract with the judicial branch as an independent contractor. The reporter shall provide and maintain the reporter's necessary equipment and supplies, retain all transcription fees paid for the reporter's transcript preparation services, and maintain professional liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage unless an exemption from workers' compensation coverage has been obtained pursuant to 39-71-401.

(5) A court reporter may use state-owned equipment under policies adopted by the district court council under 3-1-1602 to avoid duplication of equipment costs. Use of shared equipment under this subsection is not a violation of 2-2-121(2)(a).

History: Earlier acts were Secs. 1-3, pp. 393, 394, L. 1877; re-en. Secs. 1176-1178, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Secs. 1977-1981, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887. This section en. Sec. 370, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6373, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8928, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 269; re-en. Sec. 8928, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1901; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 152, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Oath of judicial officers, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

3-5-602. Court reporter as independent contractor — compensation and expenses. (1) Each court reporter who is an independent contractor under 3-5-601 is entitled to compensation as provided in the contract.

(2) The supreme court administrator shall pay the compensation due under subsection (1) as provided in 3-5-901 and 3-5-902.

(3) In judicial districts comprising more than one county, the court reporter is allowed, in addition to the compensation provided for in subsection (1) and fees, actual and necessary travel expenses, as defined and provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, when on official business to a county of the reporter's judicial district other than the county in which the reporter resides. The expenses are payable as provided in subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 375, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6378, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 8933, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Secs. 271 and 274; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 8933, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 49, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 22, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1906; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 647, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 680, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 1, Sp. L. 1985; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 640, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 10, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 384, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 585, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Fee for court reporter, 25-1-202.

3-5-603. Duties. Each reporter must, under the direction of the judge, attend all sittings of the court and take full stenographic notes of the testimony and of all proceedings given or had thereat except when the judge dispenses with the reporter's services in a particular cause or with respect to a portion of the proceedings therein. The reporter must file with the clerk forthwith the original stenographic notes taken upon a trial or hearing required to be taken by this subsection. The county in which the proceedings are held shall provide a safe and secure place for the clerk to store all official notes of the proceedings. The official notes must be kept for a period of 10 years.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 371, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6374, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8929, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8929, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 22, L. 1961; Sec. 93-1902, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 372, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6375, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8930, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 269; re-en. Sec. 8930, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 22, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 344, L. 1977; Sec. 93-1903, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1902, 93-1903; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 156, L. 1983.

3-5-604. Court reporters — transcript of district court proceedings — costs. (1) When a transcript of the testimony and proceedings of a trial or hearing or a part of a trial or hearing is requested, a court reporter shall furnish the transcript to the requester with all reasonable diligence. The court reporter shall submit an invoice with the transcript when it is furnished. The court reporter may withhold delivery of the transcript until the transcription fee is paid or satisfactory arrangement for payment is made.

(2) Compensation for transcripts under this section is as follows:

(a) (i) Ordinary transcript - $2 per page for the original furnished to a state or local government agency, $2.50 per page for the original furnished to any other party, 50 cents per page for the first copy to each party, and 25 cents per page for each additional copy to the same party.

(ii) Expedited transcript - $4 per page for the original, 50 cents per page for the first copy to each party, and 25 cents per page for each additional copy to the same party.

(iii) Daily transcript - $5 per page for the original, 50 cents per page for the first copy to each party, and 25 cents per page for each additional copy to the same party.

(b) (i) The transcript cost is subject to a cost-of-living adjustment as provided in subsection (2)(b)(ii).

(ii) Prior to June 30 of each even-numbered year, the office of the court administrator shall determine whether an increase of the transcript amount specified in subsections (2)(a)(i) through (2)(a)(iii) must be made based on the increase, if any, from June of the preceding year to May of the year in which the calculation is made in the consumer price index, U.S. city average, all urban consumers, for all items, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States department of labor.

(iii) The transcript amount established under subsection (2)(b)(ii) must be rounded to the nearest 5 cents and becomes effective as the new transcript cost, replacing the costs specified in subsections (2)(a)(i) through (2)(a)(iii), on July 1 of the year following the year the calculation was made. The office of the court administrator shall publish the adjusted costs on the judicial branch website prior to July 1 of each year.

(3) If the court reporter is not entitled to retain transcription fees under 3-5-601, the transcription fees required by subsection (2) must be paid to the clerk of district court, who shall forward the amount to the department of revenue for deposit in the state general fund.

(4) (a) If the county attorney, attorney general, or judge requires a transcript in a criminal case, the reporter shall furnish it. The transcription fee must be paid by the office of court administrator as provided in 3-5-901. The office of the court administrator may pay only for ordinary transcripts and may not pay for daily or expedited transcripts.

(b) If the judge requires a copy in a civil case to assist in rendering a decision, the reporter shall furnish the copy without charge.

(c) In civil cases, all transcripts required by the county must be furnished and must be paid for by the county pursuant to subsection (2).

(5) (a) If a public defender, as defined in 47-1-103, requests a transcript, the transcript must be furnished to the public defender and paid for by the office of state public defender, as provided in 47-1-119.

(b) If an indigent party is eligible for a public defender but is acting pro se and requests a transcript, the transcript must be furnished to the party and paid for by the office of court administrator, as provided in 3-5-901.

(6) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Copy" means any replication of the original transcript regardless of the medium.

(b) "Daily transcript" means a transcript of all or part of the proceedings to be delivered the following day.

(c) "Expedited transcript" means a transcript of all or part of the proceedings to be delivered within 7 calendar days.

(d) "Ordinary transcript" means a transcript of all or part of the proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 373, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6376, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8931, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8931, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 22, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1904; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 156, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 680, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 1, Sp. L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 704, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 394, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 583, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Fee for court reporter, 25-1-202.

Recoverable costs, 25-10-201.

3-5-605 through 3-5-610 reserved.

3-5-611. Reporter pro tempore. (1) The reporter of any district court shall perform the duties of the office in person except when excused for good and sufficient reason by order of the court. The order must be entered upon the minutes of the court. Employment in the reporter's professional capacity elsewhere is not a good and sufficient reason for the excuse.

(2) When the reporter of any court has been excused in the manner provided in this section, the court may appoint a reporter pro tempore, who shall take the same oath and perform the same duties and receive the same compensation during the time of employment as the regular reporter.

History: En. Sec. 376, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6379, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8934, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8934, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 22, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1907; amd. Sec. 181, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-5-612. Reporter's report prima facie evidence. The report of the reporter or reporter pro tempore of any court, duly appointed and sworn, when written out in longhand or printed in type and certified as being a correct transcript of the testimony and proceedings in the case, is prima facie a correct statement of such testimony and proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 377, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6380, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8935, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 273; re-en. Sec. 8935, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 22, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1908.

Parts 7 and 8 reserved

Part 9
State Funding for District Courts

3-5-901. State assumption of district court expenses. (1) There is a state-funded district court program under the judicial branch. Under this program, the office of court administrator shall fund all district court costs, except as provided in subsection (3). These costs include but are not limited to the following:

(a) salaries and benefits for:

(i) district court judges;

(ii) law clerks;

(iii) court reporters, as provided in 3-5-601;

(iv) juvenile probation officers, youth division offices staff, and assessment officers of the youth court;

(v) standing masters; and

(vi) other employees of the district court;

(b) in criminal cases:

(i) fees for transcripts of proceedings, as provided in 3-5-604;

(ii) witness fees and necessary expenses, as provided in 46-15-116;

(iii) juror fees and necessary expenses;

(iv) for a psychiatric examination under 46-14-202, the cost of the examination and other associated expenses, as provided in 46-14-202(4); and

(v) for commitment under 46-14-221, the cost of transporting the defendant to the custody of the director of the department of public health and human services to be placed in an appropriate facility of the department of public health and human services and of transporting the defendant back for any proceedings, as provided in 46-14-221(5);

(c) except as provided in 47-1-119, the district court expenses in all postconviction proceedings held pursuant to Title 46, chapter 21, and in all habeas corpus proceedings held pursuant to Title 46, chapter 22, and appeals from those proceedings;

(d) except as provided in 47-1-119, the following expenses incurred by the state in federal habeas corpus cases that challenge the validity of a conviction or of a sentence:

(i) transcript fees;

(ii) witness fees; and

(iii) expenses for psychiatric examinations;

(e) except as provided in 47-1-119, the following expenses incurred by the state in a proceeding held pursuant to Title 41, chapter 3, part 4 or 6, that seeks temporary investigative authority of a youth, temporary legal custody of a youth, or termination of the parent-child legal relationship and permanent custody:

(i) transcript fees;

(ii) witness fees;

(iii) expenses for medical and psychological evaluation of a youth or the youth's parent, guardian, or other person having physical or legal custody of the youth except for expenses for services that a person is eligible to receive under a public program that provides medical or psychological evaluation;

(iv) expenses associated with appointment of a guardian ad litem or child advocate for the youth; and

(v) expenses associated with court-ordered alternative dispute resolution;

(f) except as provided in 47-1-119, costs of juror and witness fees and witness expenses before a grand jury;

(g) costs of the court-sanctioned educational program concerning the effects of dissolution of marriage on children, as required in 40-4-226, and expenses of education when ordered for the investigation and preparation of a report concerning parenting arrangements, as provided in 40-4-215(2)(a);

(h) except as provided in 47-1-119, all district court expenses associated with civil jury trials if similar expenses were paid out of the district court fund or the county general fund in any previous year;

(i) all other costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the district court, including contract costs for court reporters who are independent contractors; and

(j) costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the youth court and youth court division operations pursuant to 41-5-111 and subsection (1)(a) of this section, except for those costs paid by other entities identified in Title 41, chapter 5.

(2) If a cost is not paid directly by the office of court administrator, the county shall pay the cost and the office of court administrator shall reimburse the county within 30 days of receipt of a claim.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), district court costs paid by the office of court administrator do not include:

(a) costs for clerks of district court and employees and expenses of the offices of the clerks of district court;

(b) costs of providing and maintaining district court office space; or

(c) charges incurred against a county by virtue of any provision of Title 7 or 46.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 680, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 1, Sp. L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 416, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 704, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 781, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 330, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 535, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 583, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 585, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 358, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 604, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 604, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

Cross-References

Court reporters — salary and expenses, 3-5-602.
Transcript of proceedings, 3-5-604.
Jurors' fees, 3-15-201.
Enumeration of county court charges, 7-6-2426.
Fees of Clerk of District Court, 25-1-201.
Time and method of payment of cost of court-appointed counsel, 46-8-114.
Expenses of grand jury, 46-11-319.
Psychiatric examination of defendant, 46-14-202.
Determination of fitness to proceed to trial — expenses, 46-14-221.
Expenses of witnesses, 46-15-116.
Disposition of money collected as fines and costs, 46-18-235.
Disposition of motor vehicle taxes and fees, 61-3-509.

3-5-902. Fiscal administration for payment of court expenses. The supreme court administrator shall establish procedures for the direct payment of district court expenses listed in 3-5-901 and for the reimbursement of district court expenses to counties as provided in 3-5-901 and shall record payments at a detailed level for budgeting and auditing purposes. The supreme court administrator shall reimburse counties for district court expenses in a timely manner.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 680, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 1, Sp. L. 1985; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 489, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 704, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 583, L. 2003.

3-5-903. Repealed. Secs. 52(1), 63(3), Ch. 585, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 680, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 1, Sp. L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 704, L. 1991.

3-5-904. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 445, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 361, L. 1995.

CHAPTER 6
MUNICIPAL COURTS

Part 1 — General Provisions

3-6-101. Establishment of court.
3-6-102. Abolition of city court.
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3-6-104. Powers and duties of the court.
3-6-105. Courtroom and supplies.
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Part 2 — Municipal Court Judges

3-6-201. Number of judges — election — term of office — chief judge — duties of chief judge.
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3-6-203. Salary.
3-6-204. Disqualification — judge pro tempore.

Part 3 — Conduct of Court Business

3-6-301. Clerk of the court — administrative expenses.
3-6-302. Records — electronic filing and storage.
3-6-303. Officers of court.

Part 1
General Provisions

3-6-101. Establishment of court. (1) A city with a population of 4,000 or more, according to the last federal census, may have a court, known as the municipal court of the city of (designating the name of the city) of the state of Montana. The court must be a court of record. The municipal court shall assume continuing jurisdiction over all pending city court cases in the city in which the municipal court is established.

(2) A city may have a municipal court only if the governing body of the city elects by a two-thirds majority vote to adopt the provisions of this chapter by ordinance and, in the ordinance, provides the manner in which and time when the municipal court is to be established and is to assume continuing jurisdiction over all pending city court cases. If a city judge is not

an attorney and the office is abolished because a municipal court is established, the ordinance must provide that the time when the establishment of the municipal court takes effect is the date on which the municipal court judge elected at the next election held under 3-6-201 begins the municipal court judge's term of office. The ordinance must be consistent with the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1701; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 182, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Courts of record, 3-1-102.

Municipal infractions, 7-1-4151.

3-6-102. Abolition of city court. (1) In cities in which a municipal court is established, the office of city judge is abolished.

(2) Except as provided in 3-6-101(2), a city judge whose office is abolished shall serve as a municipal court judge in the same city in which the judge served as city judge for the remainder of the judge's term and until the office of municipal court judge is filled by election, as provided under 3-6-201.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.16, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1716; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 99, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 389, L. 2003.**

3-6-103. Jurisdiction. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the municipal court has jurisdiction coordinate and coextensive with the justices' courts of the county where the city is located and has exclusive original jurisdiction of all civil and criminal actions and proceedings provided for in 3-11-103.

(2) The municipal court has original jurisdiction of the following proceedings:

(a) actions for the collection of money due to the city or from the city to any person when the amount sought, exclusive of interest and costs, does not exceed $25,000;

(b) when the amount claimed, exclusive of costs, does not exceed $25,000, actions for:

(i) the breach of an official bond given by a city officer;

(ii) the breach of any contract when the city is a party or is in any way interested;

(iii) damages when the city is a party or is in any way interested;

(iv) the enforcement of forfeited recognizances given to, for the benefit of, or on behalf of the city; and

(v) collections on bonds given upon an appeal taken from the judgment of the court in any action mentioned in subsections (2)(b)(i) through (2)(b)(iv); and

(c) actions for the recovery of personal property belonging to the city when the value of the property, exclusive of the damages for taking or detention, does not exceed $25,000.

(3) Municipal courts have concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in actions arising under Title 70, chapters 24 through 27.

(4) Applications for search warrants and complaints charging the commission of a felony may be filed in municipal court. The municipal court judge has the same jurisdiction and responsibility as a justice of the peace, including holding preliminary hearings. The city attorney may initiate proceedings charging a felony if the offense was committed within the city limits, but the county attorney shall take charge of the action if an information is filed in district court.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1702; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 330, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Removal to District Court, 3-5-313.

Jurisdiction of forcible entry and unlawful detainer, 3-10-302, 70-27-101.

Youth Court — concurrent jurisdiction over alcoholic beverage, tobacco products, and gambling violations, 41-5-203.

Criminal jurisdiction, 46-2-204.

3-6-104. Powers and duties of the court. (1) Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, chapter 30 of Title 25, and part 4 of chapter 17 of Title 46, the municipal court shall have in matters within its jurisdiction all the powers and duties of district judges in like cases.

The court may make and alter rules for the conduct of its business and prescribe forms of process conformable to law.

(2) The municipal court shall establish rules for appeal to district court. The rules are subject to the supreme court's rulemaking and supervisory authority.

History: (1)En. Sec. 20, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.19, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 11-1719, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 17, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.17, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 429, L. 1977; Sec. 11-1717, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1717(3), 11-1719(part).

3-6-105. Courtroom and supplies. A room for the municipal court, with necessary furniture, fixtures, and supplies, shall be provided by the city wherein the court is located.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 429, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1705.

3-6-106. Sessions of court — departments. (1) The municipal court must be in continuous session from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on every day except nonjudicial days. The judge may designate additional hours as the judge believes necessary. If there is more than one judge, each judge may hold a session of the court and may designate additional hours as the judge believes necessary.

(2) If there is more than one judge, the chief municipal court judge shall divide the court into departments, make rules for the government of the court, and describe the order of the court's business. Each department must be numbered, and a judge must be assigned to each department.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.8, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 429, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1708; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Nonjudicial days for certain purposes, 3-1-302.

3-6-107 through 3-6-109 reserved.

3-6-110. Appeal to district court — record on appeal. (1) A party may appeal to district court from a municipal court judgment or order. The appeal is confined to review of the record and questions of law, subject to the supreme court's rulemaking and supervisory authority.

(2) The record on appeal to district court consists of an electronic recording or stenographic transcription of a case tried, together with all papers filed in the action.

(3) The district court may affirm, reverse, or amend any appealed order or judgment and may direct the proper order or judgment to be entered or direct that a new trial or further proceeding be had in the court from which the appeal was taken.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 99, L. 1991.

Part 2
Municipal Court Judges

Part Cross-References

Courts of limited jurisdiction — training and certification of judges, Title 3, ch. 1, part 15.

Assault on peace officer or judicial officer, 45-5-210.

3-6-201. Number of judges — election — term of office — chief judge — duties of chief judge. (1) The governing body of a city shall determine by ordinance the number of judges required to operate the municipal court.

(2) A municipal court judge must be elected at the general election, as provided in 13-1-104(3). The judge's term commences on the first Monday in January following the election. The judge shall hold office for the term of 4 years and until a successor is elected and qualified.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2), all elections of municipal court judges are governed by the laws applicable to the election of district court judges.

(4) (a) If there is more than one municipal court judge, the judges shall adopt a procedure by which they either:

(i) select a chief municipal court judge at the beginning of each calendar year; or

(ii) select a chief municipal court judge for a specific period of time.

(b) If the judges cannot agree, the judge with the most seniority shall serve as the chief municipal court judge.

(5) The chief municipal court judge shall provide for the efficient management of the court, in cooperation with the other judge or judges, if any, and shall:

(a) maintain a central docket of the court's cases;

(b) provide for the distribution of cases from the central docket among the judges, if there is more than one judge, in order to equalize the work of the judges;

(c) request the jurors needed for cases set for jury trial;

(d) if there is more than one judge, temporarily reassign or substitute judges among the departments as necessary to carry out the business of the court; and

(e) supervise and control the court's personnel and the administration of the court.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 429, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1703; amd. Sec. 376, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 99, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 167, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 49, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Election of Justice of the Peace, 3-10-201.

Application of general election laws to nonpartisan office, 13-14-111.

3-6-202. Qualifications — certification — training. (1) A municipal court judge must have the same qualifications as a judge of a district court, as set forth in Article VII, section 9, of the Montana constitution, except that a municipal court judge need only be admitted to the practice of law in Montana for at least 3 years prior to the date of appointment or election.

(2) A municipal court judge shall reside in the county in which the court is located and shall meet the residency requirements provided in 3-10-204.

(3) The commission on courts of limited jurisdiction, upon finding compliance with subsections (1) and (2), shall issue a certificate, as required in 3-1-1502, prior to the municipal court judge assuming office. The certificate must be conditioned upon continued compliance with the minimum judicial education requirements provided for in this section. The certificate must be filed with the clerk and recorder as provided in 3-1-1502.

(4) A municipal court judge shall complete a minimum of 15 hours of continuing judicial education requirements each year or a greater number established by the supreme court. Attendance at the two annual training sessions under 3-10-203 may fulfill the requirement provided for in this subsection.

(5) Completion of a course approved for continuing judicial or legal education hours applies to the judicial education requirements under subsection (4).

(6) A municipal court judge is entitled to reimbursement by the city in which the judge holds or will hold court for all actual and necessary expenses and costs incurred in attending a continuing judicial or legal education course.

(7) On or before December 31 of each year, a municipal court judge shall file an affidavit of compliance with the continuing judicial education requirements established in this section with the commission on courts of limited jurisdiction. The supreme court may sanction a municipal court judge or declare a vacancy in the office of the judge for failure to meet the training requirements established in this section.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 429, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1704(1); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 317, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 389, L. 2003.**

3-6-203. Salary. The salary of the municipal court judge must be set by ordinance or resolution and is payable monthly by the city treasurer. Actual and necessary expenses for the municipal court judge are expenses, as defined and provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred in the performance of official duties.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 429, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1704(2); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 99, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 183, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

3-6-204. Disqualification — judge pro tempore. When a judge of a municipal court has been disqualified or is sick or unable to act, the judge shall call in a sitting or retired judge of a court of record or an attorney who is a member of the state bar of Montana and is in good standing to act as a judge pro tempore. The judge pro tempore has the same power and authority as the municipal court judge.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.13, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1713; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 389, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 167, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 557, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Disqualification and substitution of judges, Title 3, ch. 1, part 8.

Judges pro tempore — special masters — scope of authority in criminal and civil cases, 3-5-113.

Part 3
Conduct of Court Business

3-6-301. Clerk of the court — administrative expenses. The position of municipal court clerk of the court must be established by ordinance. The governing body of the city shall set the salary of the clerk and provide for other necessary expenses that may be incurred in operating the court.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.6, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1706(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 99, L. 1991.

3-6-302. Records — electronic filing and storage. (1) The records of the court must be kept by the clerk. The records in civil causes must conform as nearly as possible to the records of district courts. In criminal causes, in cases arising under city ordinances, and in cases mentioned in 3-11-103, the records must be similar to the records now kept in justices' courts.

(2) The clerk may elect to keep court documents by means of electronic filing or storage, or both, as provided in 3-1-114 and 3-1-115, in lieu of or in addition to keeping paper records.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.6, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1706(part); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 174, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Clerk to keep seal, 3-1-204.

3-6-303. Officers of court. (1) The chief of police of the city is the executive officer of the municipal court. The chief of police shall serve all process and execute all orders of the court, either in person or by subordinate police officer, who shall execute process in the chief's name.

(2) The chief of police, with the approval of the judge, shall appoint one or more police officers or reserve officers, as defined in 7-32-201, as court officers, one of whom shall attend the sessions of the court and perform all duties in connection with the court that the judge may require.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 177, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5094.7, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1707; amd. Sec. 184, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 7
WATER COURTS

Part 1 — Water Divisions

3-7-101. Water divisions.
3-7-102. Water divisions boundaries.
3-7-103. Promulgation of rules and prescription of forms — advisory committee.

Part 2 — Water Judges

3-7-201. Designation of water judge.
3-7-202. Term of office.
3-7-203. Vacancies.
3-7-204. Supervision and administration by supreme court.
3-7-205 through 3-7-210 reserved.
3-7-211. Appointment of water commissioners.
3-7-212. Enforcement of decrees.
3-7-213. Repealed.
3-7-214 through 3-7-220 reserved.
3-7-221. Appointment of chief water judge and associate water judge — terms of office.
3-7-222. Salary — office space.
3-7-223. Duties of chief water judge.
3-7-224. Jurisdiction of chief water judge and associate water judge.
3-7-225. Duties of associate water judge.

Part 3 — Water Masters

3-7-301. Appointment of water masters — removal.
3-7-302. Repealed.
3-7-303 through 3-7-310 reserved.
3-7-311. Duties of water masters.

Part 4 — Disqualification

3-7-401. Definitions.
3-7-402. Disqualification of water judge or master.
3-7-403. Waiver of disqualification.
3-7-404. Procedure exclusive.

Part 5 — Jurisdiction

3-7-501. Jurisdiction.
3-7-502. Jurisdictional disputes.

Part 1
Water Divisions

3-7-101. Water divisions. To adjudicate existing water rights and to conduct hearings in cases certified under 85-2-309, water divisions are established as defined in 3-7-102. A water division shall be presided over by a water judge.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 596, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Constitutional rights to water, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Adjudication of water rights, Title 85, ch. 2, part 2.

3-7-102. Water divisions boundaries. There are four water divisions whose boundaries are formed by the natural divides between drainages and the borders of the state of Montana and which are described as follows:

(1) The Yellowstone River basin water division consists of those areas drained by the Yellowstone and Little Missouri Rivers and any remaining areas in Carter County.

(2) The lower Missouri River basin water division consists of those areas drained by the Missouri River from below the mouth of the Marias River and any remaining areas in Glacier and Sheridan Counties.

(3) The upper Missouri River basin water division consists of those areas drained by the Missouri River to below the mouth of the Marias River.

(4) The Clark Fork River basin water division consists of the areas drained by the Clark Fork River, the Kootenai River, and any remaining areas in Lincoln County.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 697, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Jurisdiction confined to boundaries, 3-7-501.
Water division as drainage basin, 85-2-102.

3-7-103. Promulgation of rules and prescription of forms — advisory committee. (1) As soon as practicable the Montana supreme court may promulgate special rules of practice and procedure and shall prescribe forms for use in connection with this chapter and Title 85, chapter 2, parts 2 and 7, in consultation with the water judge and the department of natural resources and conservation.

(2) (a) The chief water judge shall appoint a water adjudication advisory committee to provide recommendations to the water court, the Montana supreme court, the department of natural resources and conservation, and the legislature on methods to improve and expedite the water adjudication process.

(b) The committee consists of three nongovernmental attorneys who practice before the water court, one district court judge, and three water users who have filed statements of claim with the department of natural resources and conservation under this chapter.

(c) The chief water judge or the judge's designee shall serve as an ex officio member of the committee. The Montana supreme court may appoint the attorney general or the attorney general's designee, a representative from the department of natural resources and conservation, and a representative of the United States government as ex officio members of the committee.

(d) The committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the water court and shall serve without compensation.

(e) The committee shall file a report with the Montana supreme court by October 1, 1996, and as often as determined by the Montana supreme court.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Disqualification of Water Judge or master, 3-7-402.
Water Court Rules, see annotations volume compiler's comments under 85-2-231.

Part 2
Water Judges

Part Cross-References

Assault on peace officer or judicial officer, 45-5-210.

3-7-201. Designation of water judge. (1) A water judge must be designated for each water division by a majority vote of a committee composed of the district court judge from each single-judge judicial district and the chief district judge from each multijudge judicial district, wholly or partly within the division. Except as provided in subsection (2), a water judge must be a district court judge or retired district court judge of a judicial district wholly or partly within the water division.

(2) A district court judge or retired district court judge may sit as a water judge in more than one division if requested by the chief justice of the supreme court or the water judge of the division in which the judge is requested to sit.

(3) A water judge, when presiding over a water division, presides as district court judge in and for each judicial district wholly or partly within the water division.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 604, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 185, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-7-202. Term of office. The term of office for water judges is from the date of initial appointment as provided in 3-7-201 to June 30, 1985. After June 30, 1985, the term of office of a water judge is 4 years, subject to continuation of the water divisions by the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 697, L. 1979.

3-7-203. Vacancies. If a vacancy in the office of water judge occurs, it must be filled in the manner provided in 3-7-201 for the initial designation of a water judge. A vacancy is created when a water judge dies, resigns, retires, is not elected to a subsequent term, forfeits the judicial position, is removed, or is otherwise unable to complete the term as a water judge.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 80, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 186, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-7-204. Supervision and administration by supreme court. (1) The Montana supreme court shall supervise the activities of the water judges, water masters, and associated personnel in implementing this chapter and Title 85, chapter 2, part 2.

(2) The supreme court shall pay the expenses of the water judges and the salaries and expenses of the water judges' staffs and the salaries and expenses of the water masters and the water masters' staffs, from appropriations made for that purpose. "Salaries and expenses" as used in this section include but are not limited to the salaries and expenses of personnel, the cost of office equipment and office space, and other necessary expenses that may be incurred in the administration of this chapter and Title 85, chapter 2, part 2.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.

Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.

3-7-205 through 3-7-210 reserved.

3-7-211. Appointment of water commissioners. Except as provided in 85-20-1902, the district court having jurisdiction over the hydrologically interrelated portion of a water division, as described in 85-2-231(3), in which the controversy arises may appoint and supervise a water commissioner as provided for in Title 85, chapter 5.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 604, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 294, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Water Commissioners, Title 85, ch. 5.

3-7-212. Enforcement of decrees. The district court having jurisdiction may enforce the provisions of a final decree. In the absence of any final decree having been issued, the district court having jurisdiction may enforce the provisions of a temporary preliminary decree, preliminary decree, or supplemental preliminary decree entered under 85-2-231, as modified by a water judge after objections and hearings.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 604, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 2017.

3-7-213. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 604, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 80, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 651, L. 1987.**

3-7-214 through 3-7-220 reserved.

3-7-221. Appointment of chief water judge and associate water judge — terms of office. (1) The chief justice of the Montana supreme court shall appoint a chief water judge as provided in Title 3, chapter 1, part 9. The chief justice of the Montana supreme court may appoint an associate water judge.

(2) To be eligible for the office of chief water judge or associate water judge, a person shall have the qualifications for district court or supreme court judges found in Article VII, section 9, of the Montana constitution.

(3) The term of office of the chief water judge and the associate water judge is 4 years, subject to continuation of the water divisions by the legislature.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 442, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 651, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 335, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 62, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Montana judges' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 5.

3-7-222. Salary — office space. (1) The chief water judge and the associate water judge must receive the same salary and expense allowance as provided for district judges in 3-5-211.

(2) The office of the chief water judge and the associate water judge must be at the location designated by the chief justice of the Montana supreme court. The Montana supreme court shall provide in its budget for the salary, expenses, and office and staff requirements of the chief water judge and the associate water judge. Money may be appropriated by the legislature from the general fund for these purposes.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 442, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 389, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 335, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Judges' retirement system — Chief Water Judge as member, 19-5-301.

3-7-223. *(Temporary)* **Duties of chief water judge.** The chief water judge shall:

(1) administer the adjudication of existing water rights by:

(a) coordinating with the department of natural resources and conservation in compiling information submitted on water claim forms under Title 85, chapter 2, part 2, to ensure that the information is expeditiously and properly compiled and transferred to the water judge in each water division;

(b) ensuring that the water judge in each water division moves without unreasonable delay to enter the required preliminary decree; and

(c) ensuring that any contested or conflicting claims are tried and adjudicated as expeditiously as possible;

(2) conduct hearings in cases certified to the district court under 85-2-309;

(3) conduct proceedings for petitions for judicial review filed with the water court under 2-4-702;

(4) assign court personnel to divisions and duties as needed;

(5) assign the associate water judge to divisions and cases as needed; and

(6) request and secure the transfer of water judges between divisions as needed. *(Terminates September 30, 2025—sec. 6, Ch. 126, L. 2017.)*

3-7-223. *(Effective October 1, 2025)* **Duties of chief water judge.** The chief water judge shall:

(1) administer the adjudication of existing water rights by:

(a) coordinating with the department of natural resources and conservation in compiling information submitted on water claim forms under Title 85, chapter 2, part 2, to assure that the information is expeditiously and properly compiled and transferred to the water judge in each water division;

(b) assuring that the water judge in each water division moves without unreasonable delay to enter the required preliminary decree;

(c) assuring that any contested or conflicting claims are tried and adjudicated as expeditiously as possible;

(2) conduct hearings in cases certified to the district court under 85-2-309;

(3) assign court personnel to divisions and duties as needed;
(4) assign the associate water judge to divisions and cases as needed; and
(5) request and secure the transfer of water judges between divisions as needed.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 442, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 596, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 335, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 126, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Priority basins and subbasins, 85-2-218.

3-7-224. *(Temporary)* **Jurisdiction of chief water judge and associate water judge.** (1) The chief water judge and the associate water judge may, at the discretion of the chief justice of the Montana supreme court, also serve as water judge for one of the water divisions.

(2) The chief water judge and the associate water judge have jurisdiction over cases certified to the district court under 85-2-309, all matters relating to the determination of existing water rights within the boundaries of the state of Montana, and all petitions for judicial review filed with the water court under 2-4-702.

(3) With regard to the consideration of a matter within the chief water judge's jurisdiction, the chief water judge and the associate water judge have the same powers as a district court judge. The chief water judge and the associate water judge may issue orders, on the motion of an interested party or on the judge's own motion, that may reasonably be required to allow the judge to fulfill the judge's responsibilities, including but not limited to requiring the joinder of persons not parties to the administrative hearing being conducted by the department pursuant to 85-2-309 or 85-2-402 as considered necessary to resolve any factual or legal issue certified pursuant to 85-2-309(2). *(Terminates September 30, 2025—sec. 6, Ch. 126, L. 2017.)*

3-7-224. *(Effective October 1, 2025)* **Jurisdiction of chief water judge and associate water judge.** (1) The chief water judge and the associate water judge may, at the discretion of the chief justice of the Montana supreme court, also serve as water judge for one of the water divisions.

(2) The chief water judge and the associate water judge have jurisdiction over cases certified to the district court under 85-2-309 and all matters relating to the determination of existing water rights within the boundaries of the state of Montana.

(3) With regard to the consideration of a matter within the chief water judge's jurisdiction, the chief water judge and the associate water judge have the same powers as a district court judge. The chief water judge and the associate water judge may issue orders, on the motion of an interested party or on the judge's own motion, that may reasonably be required to allow the judge to fulfill the judge's responsibilities, including but not limited to requiring the joinder of persons not parties to the administrative hearing being conducted by the department pursuant to 85-2-309 or 85-2-402 as considered necessary to resolve any factual or legal issue certified pursuant to 85-2-309(2).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 442, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 596, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 187, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 335, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 126, L. 2017.

3-7-225. *(Temporary)* **Duties of associate water judge.** The duties of the associate water judge are the same as those assigned to the chief water judge pursuant to 3-7-223(1) through (3). *(Terminates September 30, 2025—sec. 6, Ch. 126, L. 2017.)*

3-7-225. *(Effective October 1, 2025)* **Duties of associate water judge.** The duties of the associate water judge are the same as those assigned to the chief water judge pursuant to 3-7-223(1) and (2).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 335, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 126, L. 2017.

Part 3
Water Masters

3-7-301. Appointment of water masters — removal. (1) The chief water judge or the water judge in each water division may appoint one or more water masters.

(2) A water master may be appointed after July 1, 1980, and must be appointed on or before July 1, 1982.

(3) In appointing a water master, the water judge shall consider a potential master's experience with water law, water use, and water rights.

(4) A water master shall serve at the pleasure of the chief water judge and may be removed by the chief water judge.

(5) A water master may serve in any water division and may be moved among the water divisions at the discretion of the chief water judge.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 256, L. 1983.**

3-7-302. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 356, L. 2003.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 389, L. 1999.**

3-7-303 through 3-7-310 reserved.

3-7-311. Duties of water masters. (1) The water master has the general powers given to a master by Rule 53(c), M.R.Civ.P.

(2) Within a reasonable time after June 30, 1983, the water master shall issue a report to the water judge meeting the requirements for the preliminary decree as specified in 85-2-231.

(3) After a water judge issues a preliminary decree, the water master shall assist the water judge in the performance of the water division's further duties as ordered by the water judge.

(4) A water master may be appointed by a district court to serve as a special master to a district court for actions brought pursuant to 85-2-114(1) or (3) or 85-5-301 if the appointment is approved by the chief water judge.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 2009.**

Part 4
Disqualification

3-7-401. Definitions. For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Fiduciary" includes such relationships as executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian.

(2) "Financial interest" means ownership of a legal or equitable interest, however small, or a relationship as director, advisor, or other active participant in the affairs of a party, except that:

(a) ownership in a mutual or common investment fund that holds securities is not a financial interest in such securities unless the judge or water master participates in the management of the fund;

(b) an office in an educational, religious, charitable, fraternal, or civic organization is not a financial interest in securities held by the organization;

(c) the proprietary interest of a policyholder in a mutual insurance company or a depositor in a mutual savings association or a similar proprietary interest is a financial interest in the organization only if the outcome of the proceeding could substantially affect the value of the interest; and

(d) ownership of government securities is a financial interest in the issuer only if the outcome of the proceeding could substantially affect the value of the securities.

(3) "Proceeding" includes prehearing, hearing, appellate review, or other stages of adjudication conducted by the water master or water judge.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 697, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Fiduciary, 32-1-425.

3-7-402. Disqualification of water judge or master. (1) A water judge may withdraw or may disqualify the water master in any proceeding or pertinent portion of a proceeding in which the judge's or the water master's impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

(2) A water judge may also withdraw or may disqualify the water master in the following circumstances:

(a) if the judge or the water master has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party of personal knowledge or disputed evidentiary facts concerning the proceeding;

(b) if in private practice the judge or the water master served as a lawyer in the matter in controversy or a lawyer with whom the judge or the water master previously practiced law served during the association as a lawyer concerning the matter or the judge or the lawyer has been a material witness concerning it;

(c) if the judge or the water master has served in governmental employment and in that capacity participated as counsel, adviser, or material witness concerning the proceeding or expressed an opinion concerning the merits of the particular case in controversy;

(d) if the judge or the water master knows that the judge or the water master, individually or as a fiduciary, or the judge's or the water master's spouse or minor child residing in the judge's or the water master's household has a financial interest in the subject matter in controversy or in a party to the proceeding or any other interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding; or

(e) if the judge or the water master or the judge's or the water master's spouse or a person within the third degree of relationship to any of them (as calculated according to 72-11-101 through 72-11-104) or the spouse of such a person:

(i) is a party to the proceeding or an officer, director, or trustee of a party;

(ii) is known by the judge or water master to have an interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding;

(iii) is to the judge's or water master's knowledge likely to be a material witness in the proceeding.

(3) A water judge should be informed about the judge's and the water master's personal and fiduciary financial interests and make a reasonable effort to be informed about the personal financial interests of the judge's and the water master's spouse and minor children residing in the judge's or the water master's respective household.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Disqualification and substitution of judges, Title 3, ch. 1, part 8.

3-7-403. Waiver of disqualification. A water judge may accept from the parties to the proceeding a waiver of any ground for disqualification if it is preceded by a full disclosure on the record of the basis for disqualification.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 697, L. 1979.

3-7-404. Procedure exclusive. The procedure for disqualification of a water judge or water master specified in this section is exclusive unless otherwise specifically altered by the Montana supreme court.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 697, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Promulgation of rules, 3-7-103.

Part 5
Jurisdiction

3-7-501. Jurisdiction. (1) The jurisdiction of each judicial district concerning the determination and interpretation of cases certified to the court under 85-2-309 or of existing water rights is exercised exclusively by it through the water division or water divisions that contain the judicial district wholly or partly.

(2) A water judge may not preside over matters concerning the determination and interpretation of cases certified to the court under 85-2-309 or of existing water rights beyond the boundaries specified in 3-7-102 for the judge's division except as provided in 3-7-201.

(3) The water judge for each division shall exercise jurisdiction over all matters concerning cases certified to the court under 85-2-309 or concerning the determination and interpretation of existing water rights within the judge's division as specified in 3-7-102 that are considered filed in or transferred to a judicial district wholly or partly within the division.

(4) The determination and interpretation of existing water rights includes, without limitation, the adjudication of total or partial abandonment of existing water rights occurring at any time before the entry of the final decree.

History: En. Secs. 1, 6, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 80, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 596, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 604, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1997.

3-7-502. Jurisdictional disputes. Whenever a question arises concerning which water judge shall preside over adjudication of a matter concerning a case certified to the court under 85-2-309 or the determination and interpretation of existing water rights, the question shall be settled by the water judges involved.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 697, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 596, L. 1985.

CHAPTERS 8 AND 9
RESERVED

CHAPTER 10
JUSTICES' COURTS

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3-10-101. Number and location of justices' courts — authorization to combine with city court — justice's court of record.
3-10-102. When courts open.
3-10-103. County to provide facilities.
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3-10-401. Contempts for which justice of the peace may punish.
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3-10-518. Youth matters cited in justice's court — public record.

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3-10-601. Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees.
3-10-602. Penalty.
3-10-603. Repealed.

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3-10-701. Constables to attend court.
3-10-702. Governed by law prescribing sheriffs' duties.
3-10-703. Compensation.
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3-10-1001. Purpose.
3-10-1002. Creation.
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Part 1
General Provisions

3-10-101. Number and location of justices' courts — authorization to combine with city court — justice's court of record. (1) There must be at least one justice's court in each county of the state, which must be located at the county seat. The board of county commissioners shall designate the number of justices in each justice's court.

(2) The board of county commissioners of each county of the state may establish:

(a) one additional justice's court located anywhere in the county; and

(b) one additional justice's court located in each city having a population of over 5,000, as provided in subsection (3).

(3) A city having a population of over 5,000 may, by resolution, request the board of county commissioners to constitute a justice's court in the city. A justice's court must be established in the city if the board of county commissioners approves the request by resolution.

(4) A justice of the peace of a court established pursuant to subsection (3) may act as the city judge upon passage of a city ordinance authorizing the action and upon approval of the ordinance by resolution of the board of county commissioners. If the ordinance and resolution are passed, the city and the county shall enter into an agreement for proportionate payment of the justice's salary, as established under 3-10-207 and 3-11-202, and for proportionate reimbursement for the use of facilities.

(5) A county may establish the justice's court as a court of record. If the justice's court is established as a court of record, it must be known as a "justice's court of record" and, in addition to the provisions of this chapter, is also subject to the provisions of 3-10-115 and 3-10-116. The court's proceedings must be recorded by electronic recording or stenographic transcription and all papers filed in a proceeding must be included in the record. A justice's court of record may be established by a resolution of the county commissioners or pursuant to 7-5-131 through 7-5-135 and 7-5-137.

History: En. Sec. 60, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6279, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8833, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 85; re-en. Sec. 8833, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 420, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 393, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 389, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 557, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 49, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Appellate jurisdiction of District Court, 3-5-303.
Justice of the Peace as City Judge, 3-11-205.
Exception to office location of county officers, 7-4-2211.
Procedure in Justices' Courts, Title 25, ch. 31.
Appeal from Justices', Municipal, and City Courts, 46-17-311.

3-10-102. When courts open. A justice's court is always open for the transaction of business, except on legal holidays and nonjudicial days.

History: En. Sec. 61, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6280, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8834, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 104; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 8834, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 276, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 93-402.

Cross-References

Nonjudicial days for certain purposes, 3-1-302.

3-10-103. County to provide facilities. The board of county commissioners of the county in which the justice of the peace has been elected or appointed:

(1) shall provide for the justice's court:

(a) the office, courtroom, and clerical assistance necessary to enable the justice of the peace and the clerk of justice's court, if any, to conduct business in dignified surroundings;

(b) the books, records, forms, papers, stationery, postage, office equipment, and supplies necessary in the proper keeping of the records and files of the court and the transaction of the business; and

(c) the latest edition of the Montana Code Annotated and all official supplements; and

(2) may provide a clerk of justice's court.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 491, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-412(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.

Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.

3-10-104 through 3-10-110 reserved.

3-10-111. What provisions of code applicable to justices' courts. Because justices' courts are courts of peculiar and limited jurisdiction, only those provisions of this code which are, in their nature, applicable to the organization, powers, and course of proceedings in justices' courts or which have been made applicable by special provisions in this chapter, chapter 31 of Title 25, and Title 27 are applicable to justices' courts and the proceedings therein.

History: En. Sec. 1686, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7084, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9717, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 925; re-en. Sec. 9717, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7707; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 21, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Provisions applicable to Justices' Courts, 25-31-111.

3-10-112 through 3-10-114 reserved.

3-10-115. Appeal to district court from justice's court of record — record on appeal. (1) A party may appeal to district court a judgment or order from a justice's court of record. The appeal is confined to review of the record and questions of law, subject to the supreme court's rulemaking and supervisory authority.

(2) The record on appeal to district court consists of an electronic recording or stenographic transcription of a case tried, together with all papers filed in the action.

(3) The district court may affirm, reverse, or amend any appealed order or judgment and may direct the proper order or judgment to be entered or direct that a new trial or further proceeding be had in the court from which the appeal was taken.

(4) Unless the supreme court establishes rules for appeal from a justice's court of record to the district court, the Montana Uniform Municipal Court Rules of Appeal to District Court, codified in Title 25, chapter 30, apply to appeals to district court from the justice's court of record.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 389, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 557, L. 2005.

3-10-116. Disqualification of justice of peace for justice's court of record — judge pro tempore. (1) When a justice of the peace for a justice's court of record has been disqualified or is sick or unable to act, the justice shall call in another justice of the peace for a justice's court of record, another justice of the peace for a justice's court not of record, a municipal court judge, a judge for a city court of record, a judge for a city court not of record, a retired justice of the peace for a justice's court of record, a retired municipal court judge, a retired judge for a city court of record, a licensed Montana attorney on active, inactive, or senior status, or the clerk of the justice's court of record to act as a judge pro tempore.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the judge pro tempore has the same power and authority as the justice of the peace for the justice's court of record.

(b) A clerk of a justice's court of record acting as a judge pro tempore may not preside over a trial but may preside over an initial appearance.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 389, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 557, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

3-10-117. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 557, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 389, L. 2003.

3-10-118. Powers and duties of justice's court of record. (1) Except as otherwise provided by Title 25, chapter 30, and this chapter, the justice of the peace in a justice's court of record has, in matters within its jurisdiction, all the powers and duties of district judges in like cases. The justice of the peace may make and alter rules for the conduct of its business and prescribe forms of process conformable to law.

(2) The justice's court of record shall establish rules for appeal to district court. The rules are subject to the supreme court's rulemaking and supervisory authority.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 557, L. 2005.

Part 2
Justices of the Peace

Part Cross-References

Justices of the Peace, Art. VII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Official bond, 2-9-701 through 2-9-704.

Courts of limited jurisdiction — training and certification of judges, Title 3, ch. 1, part 15.

Assault on peace officer or judicial officer, 45-5-210.

3-10-201. Election. (1) Except as provided in 3-10-206, each justice of the peace must be elected by the qualified electors of the county at the general state election immediately preceding the expiration of the term of office of the justice of the peace's predecessor.

(2) A justice of the peace must be nominated and elected on the nonpartisan judicial ballot in the same manner as judges of the district court.

(3) Each judicial office must be a separate and independent office for election purposes, each office must be numbered by the county commissioners, and each candidate for justice of the peace shall specify the number of the office for which the candidate seeks to be elected. A candidate may not file for more than one office.

(4) Section 13-35-231, prohibiting political party contributions to judicial officers, applies to justices of the peace.

History: En. Sec. 60, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6279, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8833, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 85; re-en. Sec. 8833, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 420, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401(part); amd. Sec. 188, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Successor to office, 3-10-513.

Nonpartisan elections, 13-14-111.

3-10-202. Oath — proof of certification. (1) Each justice of the peace, elected or appointed, after receipt of the certificate of election or appointment, shall, before entering upon the duties of office, take the constitutional oath of office, which must be filed with the county clerk.

(2) Before the county clerk may file the oath, the elected or appointed justice shall satisfy the clerk that the justice is certified as provided in 3-1-1502 or 3-1-1503.

History: En. Sec. 60, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6279, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8833, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 85; re-en. Sec. 8833, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 420, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401(3), (4); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 366, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 317, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 189, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Oath of judicial officers, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Nonjudicial days for certain purposes, 3-1-302.

3-10-203. Orientation course — annual training. (1) Under the supervision of the supreme court, a course of study must be presented as soon as is practical following each general election. Actual and necessary travel expenses, as defined and provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, and the costs of registration and books and other materials must be paid to the elected or appointed justice of the peace for attending the course by the county in which the justice of the peace holds or will hold court and must be charged against that county.

(2) There must be two mandatory annual training sessions supervised by the supreme court for all elected and appointed justices of the peace. One of the training sessions may be held in conjunction with the Montana magistrates' association convention. Actual and necessary travel expenses, as defined and provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, and the costs of registration and books and other materials must be paid to the elected or appointed justice of the peace for attending the sessions by the county in which the justice of the peace holds or will hold court and must be charged against that county.

(3) Each justice of the peace shall attend the training sessions provided for in subsection (2). Failure to attend disqualifies the justice of the peace from office and creates a vacancy in the office. However, the supreme court may excuse a justice of the peace from attendance because of illness, a death in the family, or any other good cause.

History: **En. Sec. 60, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6279, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8833, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 85; re-en. Sec. 8833, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 420, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401(5), (6); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 466, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 389, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 557, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Training and certification of judges, Title 3, ch. 1, part 15.

3-10-204. Residence requirements. (1) A justice of the peace must reside in the county in which the justice's court is held.

(2) A person is not eligible for the office of justice of the peace unless the person is a citizen of the United States and has been a resident of the county in which the person is to serve for 1 year preceding election or appointment.

History: **En. Sec. 163, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6311, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8865, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 159; re-en. Sec. 8865, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 491, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-704; amd. Sec. 190, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Rules for determining residency, 1-1-215.

3-10-205. Term of office. The term of office of justices of the peace is as provided in 7-4-2205.

History: **En. Sec. 64, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6283, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8837, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 110; re-en. Sec. 8837, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 491, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-405; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Terms and salary of Justices of the Peace, Art. VII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

3-10-206. Vacancies. Subject to the residency requirements provided in 3-10-204 and the election requirements provided in 3-10-201(2) through (4), a vacancy in the office of a justice of the peace must be filled pursuant to 7-4-2206 until a successor is elected and qualified.

History: **En. Sec. 65, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6284, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8838, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 111; re-en. Sec. 8838, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-406; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 175, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.
Forfeiture of judicial position, Art. VII, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Removal by action of Judicial Standards Commission, Art. VII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Vacancies created, 2-16-501.
Resignations, 2-16-502.
Vacancy — failure to attend training session, 3-10-203.
Successor to office, 3-10-511 through 3-10-514.
Improper handling of fees, 3-10-602.
Vacancies of county officers, 7-4-2206.
Misconduct in office, 45-7-401.

3-10-207. Salaries. (1) Subject to subsections (2) through (4), the board of county commissioners shall set salaries for justices of the peace by resolution and in conjunction with setting salaries for other officers as provided in 7-4-2504.

(2) The salary of the justice of the peace may not be less than the salary for the district clerk of the court in that county.

(3) If the justice's court is not open for business full time, the justice's salary must be commensurate to the workload and office hours of the court. The salary of a justice of the peace may not be reduced during the justice's term of office.

(4) The salary of the justice of the peace for a justice's court of record may not exceed 90% of the salary of a district court judge determined as provided in 3-5-211.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 491, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-413; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 536, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 507, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 389, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 557, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Judicial salaries not to be diminished during term of office, Art. VII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Terms and salary of Justices of the Peace, Art. VII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Payment of salaries of county officials, 7-4-2502.

3-10-208. Office hours. In the resolution providing for the salary, the county commissioners shall designate the office hours for each justice's court. Office hours shall be commensurate with the salary provided.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 491, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-414; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 492, L. 1983.

3-10-209. Expenses. All actual and necessary travel expenses, as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred by the justice of the peace in the performance of official duties are a legal charge against the county.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 491, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-412(2); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 191, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Expenses when acting as City Judge, 3-11-205.

3-10-210 through 3-10-220 reserved.

3-10-221. Duties of justices. Justices of the peace must perform such duties as are prescribed in this chapter, chapter 31 of Title 25, and Title 27 and any other duties prescribed by law.

History: En. Sec. 4552, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3099, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4862, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4316; re-en. Sec. 4862, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3604; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 21, L. 1979.

3-10-222. Collection and payment of money. A justice of the peace may require the sheriff, levying officer, or constable of any county to pay over all money collected on any process or order issued from the justice's court and to pay all money paid to the justice in the justice's official capacity over to the parties entitled or authorized to receive the money, without delay.

History: En. Sec. 644, p. 171, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 749, p. 186, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 809, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 829, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1682, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7080, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9713, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 921; re-en. Sec. 9713, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7703; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 515, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Fines, penalties, forfeitures, fees, and costs in Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10, part 6.
Applicability to Municipal Court, 25-30-101.

3-10-223 through 3-10-230 reserved.

3-10-231. Circumstances in which acting justice called in — by whom. (1) Whenever a justice of the peace is disqualified from acting in any action because of the application of the supreme court's rules on disqualification and substitution of judges, provided for in 3-1-803 and 3-1-805, the justice of the peace shall:

(a) transfer the action to another justice's court in the same county; or

(b) request a district court judge presiding in the county to appoint a qualified substitute from the list provided in subsection (2) or call a justice from a neighboring county to preside.

(2) (a) The following requirements must be met to qualify a substitute for a justice of the peace:

(i) Within 30 days of taking office, a justice of the peace shall provide a list of persons who are qualified to hold court in the justice's place during a temporary absence. Each person listed must be a current or former judge, a current or former attorney, current court personnel, or a former law enforcement officer. The persons listed must also be of good moral character and have community support, a sense of community standards, and a basic knowledge of court procedure.

(ii) The sitting justice of the peace shall request and obtain from the commission on courts of limited jurisdiction established by the supreme court a waiver of training for the substitutes.

(iii) Each person on the list provided for in subsection (2)(a)(i) shall subscribe to the written oath of office as soon as possible after the person has received a waiver of training from the supreme court. The oath may be subscribed before any member of the board of county commissioners or before any other officer authorized to administer oaths.

(b) The list of qualified substitutes, the written oath, and the commission's written approval and waiver of training for those substitutes pursuant to subsection (2)(a)(ii) must be filed with the county clerk as provided in 3-10-202.

(c) A county clerk may provide a current list of qualified and sworn substitutes to local law enforcement officers.

(3) Whenever a justice is sick, disabled, absent, or otherwise unable to act, the justice may call in another justice or a city judge or a person from the list provided for in subsection (2) to hold court for the justice until the justice is able to act. If the justice is unable to call in a substitute, the county commissioners shall call in another justice, a city judge, or a person from the list provided for in subsection (2).

(4) During the time when a justice of the peace is on vacation or attending a training session, another justice of the peace of the same county is authorized to handle matters that otherwise would be handled by the absent justice. When there is no other justice of the peace in the county, the justice of the peace may designate another person in the same manner as provided in subsection (3).

(5) A justice of the peace of any county may hold the court of any other justice of the peace at that justice's request.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 626, p. 168, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 732, p. 184, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 792, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 812, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1683, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7081, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9714, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 922; re-en. Sec. 9714, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 420, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 344, L. 1977; Sec. 93-7704, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 62, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6281, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8835, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 105; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 92, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 8835, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 420, L. 1975; Sec. 93-403, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-403(part), 93-7704(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 317, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Restrictions on Justices of the Peace practicing law or taking claims for collection, 3-1-602.
Disqualification and substitution of judges, Title 3, ch. 1, part 8.
Applicability to Municipal Court, 25-30-101.

3-10-232. Docket entries by acting justice. When another justice or any other qualified person is called to preside in a justice's court, proper entries of all proceedings must be made in the docket of the justice for whom the visiting justice or person holds court. A justice holding court at the request of another justice must subscribe the entries. When the appointment is made by order of the county commissioners, the order shall be placed in the court docket.

History: En. Sec. 62, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6281, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8835, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 105; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 92, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 8835, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 420, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7704(3).

3-10-233. Jurisdiction of acting justice. When called in to preside over a justice's court, the visiting justice of the peace or other qualified person while acting as justice of the peace is vested with all the power of the justice for whom the person holds court.

History: En. Sec. 62, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6281, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8835, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 105; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 92, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 8835, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 420, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7704(4); amd. Sec. 192, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-10-234. Expenses of acting justice. Whenever a justice of the peace or another person is called in to preside over the court of a justice under 3-10-231, the visiting justice or other person must be paid actual and necessary travel expenses, as defined and provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. If the acting justice is not a justice of the peace receiving a salary, the acting justice must also receive compensation that is proper for the time involved. The cost of implementing this section is a proper charge against the county where the court is held.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 626, p. 168, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 732, p. 184, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 792, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 812, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1683, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7081, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9714, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 922; re-en. Sec. 9714, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 420, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 344, L. 1977; Sec. 93-7704, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 62, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6281, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8835, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 105; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 92, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 8835, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd.

Sec. 10, Ch. 420, L. 1975; Sec. 93-403, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-403(part), 93-7704(2); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 193, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Applicability to Municipal Court, 25-30-101.

Part 3
Jurisdiction of Justices' Courts

Part Cross-References

Basis for jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Limits on jurisdiction, 3-5-302, 25-31-101.
Removal to District Court, 3-5-313.
Jurisdiction of Acting Justice of the Peace, 3-10-233.
Transfer to District Court, 25-31-102.
Small claims procedures — Justices' Courts, Title 25, ch. 35.
Jurisdiction concurrent with Youth Court, 41-5-203, 45-5-624.

3-10-301. Civil jurisdiction. (1) Except as provided in 3-11-103 and in subsection (2) of this section, the justices' courts have jurisdiction:

(a) in actions arising on contract for the recovery of money only if the sum claimed does not exceed $15,000, exclusive of court costs and attorney fees;

(b) in actions for damages not exceeding $15,000, exclusive of court costs and attorney fees, for taking, detaining, or injuring personal property or for injury to real property when no issue is raised by the verified answer of the defendant involving the title to or possession of the real property;

(c) in actions for damages not exceeding $15,000, exclusive of court costs and attorney fees, for injury to the person, except that, in actions for false imprisonment, libel, slander, criminal conversation, seduction, malicious prosecution, determination of paternity, and abduction, the justice of the peace does not have jurisdiction;

(d) in actions to recover the possession of personal property if the value of the property does not exceed $15,000;

(e) in actions for a fine, penalty, or forfeiture not exceeding $15,000 imposed by a statute or an ordinance of an incorporated city or town when no issue is raised by the answer involving the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, or municipal fine;

(f) in actions for a fine, penalty, or forfeiture not exceeding $15,000 imposed by a statute or assessed by an order of a conservation district for violation of Title 75, chapter 7, part 1;

(g) in actions upon bonds or undertakings conditioned for the payment of money when the sum claimed does not exceed $15,000, though the penalty may exceed that sum;

(h) to take and enter judgment for the recovery of money on the confession of a defendant when the amount confessed does not exceed $15,000, exclusive of court costs and attorney fees;

(i) to issue temporary restraining orders, as provided in 40-4-121, and orders of protection, as provided in Title 40, chapter 15;

(j) to issue orders to restore streams under Title 75, chapter 7, part 1, or to require payment of the actual cost for restoration of a stream if the restoration does not exceed $15,000.

(2) Justices' courts do not have jurisdiction in civil actions that might result in a judgment against the state for the payment of money.

History: En. Sec. 546, p. 150, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 655, p. 167, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 715, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1, p. 46, L. 1883; re-en. Sec. 735, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 66, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6286, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8840, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 112; re-en. Sec. 8840, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 420, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-408; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 409, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 348, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 307, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 393, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 470, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 331, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Small claims division, Title 3, ch. 10, part 10.
Justices' Courts — small claims division — jurisdiction, 3-10-1004.
City Court — jurisdictional limits, 3-11-103.
Venue, Title 25, ch. 2.
Issues that cannot be presented in Justices' Courts, 25-31-101.
Transfer to District Court, 25-31-102.
Small claims procedure, Title 25, ch. 35, parts 5 through 8.
Small claims procedures — Justice's Court — jurisdictional limits, 25-35-502.

Small claims procedures — Justice's Court — removal from District Court, 25-35-503.
Defendant's counterclaim, 25-35-606.
Confession of judgment, 27-9-101, 27-9-104.
Streambed protection — civil liability, 75-7-123.
Jurisdiction over Montana Livestock Marketing Act violations and misdemeanors, 81-8-217.

3-10-302. Jurisdiction over forcible entry, unlawful detainer, rent deposit, and residential and residential mobile home landlord-tenant disputes. The justices' courts have concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts within their respective counties in actions of forcible entry, unlawful detainer, and rent deposits and in actions brought under Title 70, chapters 24, 25, and 33.

History: **En. Sec. 67, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6287, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8841, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 113; re-en. Sec. 8841, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 420, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-409; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Municipal Court jurisdiction, 3-6-103.
Jurisdiction, 70-27-101.

3-10-303. Criminal jurisdiction. (1) The justices' courts have jurisdiction of public offenses committed within the respective counties in which the courts are established as follows:

(a) except as provided in subsection (2), jurisdiction of all misdemeanors punishable by a fine not exceeding $500 or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both;

(b) jurisdiction of all misdemeanor violations of fish and game statutes punishable by a fine of not more than $1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both;

(c) concurrent jurisdiction with district courts of all misdemeanors punishable by a fine exceeding $500 or imprisonment exceeding 6 months, or both;

(d) concurrent jurisdiction with district courts of all misdemeanor violations of fish and game statutes punishable by a fine exceeding $1,000 or imprisonment exceeding 6 months, or both;

(e) jurisdiction to act as examining and committing courts and for that purpose to conduct preliminary hearings;

(f) jurisdiction of all violations of Title 61, chapter 10; and

(g) all misdemeanor violations of Title 81, chapter 8, part 2.

(2) In any county that has established a drug treatment court or a mental health treatment court, the district court, with the consent of all judges of the courts of limited jurisdiction in the county, has concurrent jurisdiction of all misdemeanors punishable by a fine not exceeding $500 or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 314, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 465, L. 1977; Sec. 95-302, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 68, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6288, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8842, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 115; re-en. Sec. 8842, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 420, L. 1975; Sec. 93-410, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-410, 95-302; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 601, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 612, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 393, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 514, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Youth Court — concurrent jurisdiction over alcoholic beverage, tobacco products, and gambling violations, 41-5-203.
Jurisdiction of Justices' Courts, 46-2-202.
Notice to appear, 46-6-310.
Offense of partner or family member assault not to be included in bail schedule, 46-9-302.
Preliminary examination, 46-10-105.
Jurisdiction over Montana Livestock Marketing Act violations and misdemeanors, 81-8-217.
Fish and wildlife misdemeanor violations, 87-5-721, 87-6-102.

3-10-304. Territorial extent of civil jurisdiction. (1) The civil jurisdiction of a justice's court extends to the limits of the county in which it is held, and except as provided in subsection (2), intermediate and final process of a justice's court in a county may be issued to and served in any part of the county.

(2) A summons or a writ of execution of a justice's court may be served in any county of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 550, p. 151, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 656, p. 167, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 716, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 736, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 63, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6282, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8836, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 106; re-en. Sec. 8836, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-404; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 515, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 457, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Execution of judgment outside county in which obtained — lien on real property, 25-31-914.

3-10-305. Repealed. Sec. 63, Ch. 16, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 632, p. 168, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 738, p. 185, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 798, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 818, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1680, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7078, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9711, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 919; re-en. Sec. 9711, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7701.

3-10-306. Repealed. Sec. 63, Ch. 16, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 625, p. 167, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 731, p. 184, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 791, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 811, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1681, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7079, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9712, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 920; re-en. Sec. 9712, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7702.

Part 4
Contempts in Justices' Courts

Part Cross-References

Powers of judicial officers as to conduct of proceedings, 3-1-402.
Power to punish for contempt, 3-1-403.
Contempts, Title 3, ch. 1, part 5.
Contempt in City Court, 3-11-303.
Criminal contempts, 45-7-309.

3-10-401. Contempts for which justice of the peace may punish. A justice of the peace may punish for contempt persons guilty of only the following acts:

(1) disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior toward the justice while holding the court tending to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;

(2) a breach of the peace, boisterous conduct, or violent disturbance in the presence of the justice or in the immediate vicinity of the court held by the justice tending to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;

(3) disobedience or resistance to the execution of a lawful order or process made or issued by the justice;

(4) disobedience to a subpoena duly served or refusal to be sworn or to answer as a witness;

(5) rescuing any person or property in the custody of an officer by virtue of an order or process of the court.

History: En. Sec. 1650, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7065, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9698, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 906; re-en. Sec. 9698, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7501; amd. Sec. 194, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Power over conduct of proceedings, 3-1-402.
Power to punish for contempt, 3-1-403, 45-1-104.
What acts or omissions are contempts, 3-1-501.
Contempts City Judge may punish, 3-11-303.
Enforcement of order to deposit in court, 25-8-102.
Enforcement of judgment requiring performance of specific act, 25-13-203.
Enforcement of child support order, 40-6-117.
Criminal contempt, 45-7-309.

3-10-402. Proceedings. When a contempt is committed, whether or not it is in the immediate view and presence of the justice, the procedures contained in 3-1-501(3) and (4), 3-1-511 through 3-1-518, and 3-1-520 through 3-1-523 apply.

History: En. Sec. 1651, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7066, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9699, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 907; re-en. Sec. 9699, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7502; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 496, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Contempt in presence of court, 3-1-511.

3-10-403. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 496, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1652, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7067, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9700, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 908; re-en. Sec. 9700, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7503.

3-10-404. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 496, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 630, p. 168, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 736, p. 184, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 796, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 816, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1653, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7068, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9701, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 909; re-en. Sec. 9701, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7504.

3-10-405. Conviction in docket. The conviction, specifying particularly the offense and the judgment on the conviction, must be entered by the justice of the peace in the docket.

History: En. Sec. 631, p. 168, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 737, p. 184, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 797, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 817, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1654, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7069, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9702, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 910; re-en. Sec. 9702, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7505; amd. Sec. 195, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Judgments and orders in contempt cases final, 3-1-523.

Part 5
Records in Justices' Courts

Part Cross-References

Transmittal of proceeds to County Treasurer, 3-10-601, 46-18-603.
Authority to administer oaths, 7-4-2209.
Registration of marriage — report to County Clerk of Court, 40-1-321.
Record of proceedings, 46-17-102.
Availability of records to Department of Justice, 61-11-104.
Report to State Treasurer — exception, 61-12-701.

3-10-501. Contents of docket — electronic filing and storage of court records. (1) Each justice shall keep a book, denominated a "docket", in which the justice shall enter:

(a) the title of each action or proceeding;

(b) the object of the action or proceeding and, if a sum of money is claimed, the amount;

(c) the date of the summons and the time of its return and, if an order to arrest the defendant is made or a writ of attachment is issued, a statement of the fact;

(d) the time when the parties or either of them appear or their nonappearance if default is made; a minute of the pleading and motions, if in writing, referring to them, if not in writing, a concise statement of the material parts of the pleadings;

(e) each adjournment, stating on whose application and to what time;

(f) the demand for a trial by jury, when the demand is made, and by whom made; the order for the jury; and the time appointed for the return of the jury and for the trial;

(g) the names of the jurors who appear and are sworn and the names of all witnesses sworn and at whose request;

(h) the verdict of the jury and when received; if the jury disagree and is discharged, the fact of disagreement and discharge;

(i) the judgment of the court, specifying the costs included and the time when rendered, and an itemized statement of the costs;

(j) the issuing of the execution, when issued, and to whom; the renewals of the execution, if any, and when made; and a statement of any money paid to the justice, when paid, and by whom;

(k) the receipt of a notice of appeal, if any is given, and of the undertaking on appeal, if any is filed.

(2) The justice may elect to keep court documents by means of electronic filing or storage, or both, as provided in 3-1-114 and 3-1-115, in lieu of or in addition to keeping paper records.

History: Secs. 9703-9709, R.C.M. 1921, were en. Secs. 619-624, pp. 166, 167, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Secs. 725-730, pp. 183, 184, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Secs. 785-790, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Secs. 805-810, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Secs. 1660-1667, C. Civ. Proc. 1895. This section re-en. Sec. 7070, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9703, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 911; re-en. Sec. 9703, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7601; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 174, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Docketing in District Courts, 3-5-508.
Small claims division — docket entries, 3-10-1005.

3-10-502. How entries made — prima facie evidence. (1) The items listed in 3-10-501 must be entered in the docket under the title of the action to which they relate and, unless otherwise provided, at the time when they occur.

(2) The entries in a justice of the peace's docket or a transcript of the entries certified by the justice or the justice's successor in office are prima facie evidence of the facts stated.

History: En. Sec. 1661, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7071, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9704, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 912; re-en. Sec. 9704, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7602; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Court reporter's transcript, 3-5-612.

Small claims division — docket entries, 3-10-1005.

3-10-503. Index to docket — electronic filing and storage of court records. (1) A justice shall keep an alphabetical index to the docket, in which must be entered the names of the parties to each judgment, with a reference to the page of entry. The names of the plaintiffs and defendants must be entered in the index in the alphabetical order of the first letter of the family name.

(2) The justice may elect to keep the index by means of electronic filing or storage, or both, as provided in 3-1-114 and 3-1-115, in lieu of or in addition to keeping paper records.

History: En. Sec. 1662, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7072, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9705, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 913; re-en. Sec. 9705, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7603; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 174, L. 1995.

3-10-504 through 3-10-510 reserved.

3-10-511. Records delivered to successor. Each justice of the peace, upon the expiration of the term of office, shall deposit with the justice's successor the official dockets and all papers or electronically filed or stored documents that were filed in the court during the justice's term of office or before, to be kept as public records.

History: En. Sec. 1663, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7073, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9706, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 914; re-en. Sec. 9706, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7604; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 174, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Vacancies, 3-10-206.

3-10-512. Proceedings when office becomes vacant. If the office of a justice becomes vacant because of death or removal from the county or for any other cause before a successor is appointed, the docket and papers or electronically filed or stored documents that were in the justice's possession must be deposited in the office of some other justice in the county, who shall deliver them to the successor of the former justice. If there is no other justice in the county, the docket and papers or electronically filed or stored documents must be deposited in the office of the county clerk, who shall deliver them to the successor in office of the former justice.

History: En. Sec. 1664, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7074, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9707, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 915; re-en. Sec. 9707, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7605; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 174, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Vacancies, 3-10-206.

3-10-513. Who is the successor. The justice appointed to fill a vacancy is the successor of the justice whose office became vacant before the expiration of a full term. When a full term expires, the person elected to take the numbered office, as provided in 3-10-201, from that time is the successor.

History: En. Sec. 1666, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7076, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9709, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 917; re-en. Sec. 9709, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7607.

Cross-References

Vacancies, 3-10-206.

3-10-514. Docket of predecessor. A justice of the peace with whom the docket of the justice's predecessor or of any other justice is deposited has and may exercise over all actions and proceedings entered in the docket the same jurisdiction as if the actions and proceedings were originally commenced before the justice. In the case of the creation of a new county or the change of the boundary between two counties, any justice into whose hands the docket of a justice formerly acting as justice within that territory is, for the purpose of this section, considered the successor of the former justice.

History: En. Sec. 1665, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7075, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9708, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 916; re-en. Sec. 9708, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7606; amd. Sec. 197, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Vacancies, 3-10-206.

3-10-515 through 3-10-517 reserved.

3-10-518. Youth matters cited in justice's court — public record. Except as provided in 41-5-216, all filed matters related to a youth cited in a justice's court are a public record.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 466, L. 1995.

Part 6
Fines, Penalties, Forfeitures, Fees, and Costs in Justices' Courts

Part Cross-References

Jurors' fees, Title 3, ch. 15, part 2.
Allowable costs, Title 25, ch. 10, part 2.
Witness fees, Title 26, ch. 2, part 5.

3-10-601. Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees. (1) Except as provided in 61-8-726 and 75-7-123, a justice's court shall collect the fees prescribed by law for justices' courts and shall pay them into the county treasury of the county in which the justice of the peace holds office, on or before the 10th day of each month, to be credited to the general fund of the county.

(2) Except as provided in 61-8-726, 75-7-123, and subsection (4) of this section, all fines, penalties, and forfeitures that are required to be imposed, collected, or paid in a justice's court must, for each calendar month, be paid by the justice's court on or before the 5th day of the following month to the treasurer of the county in which the justice's court is situated, except that they may be distributed as provided in 44-12-213 if imposed, collected, or paid for a violation of Title 45, chapter 9 or 10.

(3) Except as provided in 46-18-236(7), 61-8-726, and 75-7-123, the county treasurer shall, as provided in 15-1-504, distribute money received under subsection (2) as follows:

(a) 50% to the department of revenue for deposit in the state general fund; and

(b) 50% to the county general fund.

(4) (a) The justice's court may contract with a private person or entity for the collection of any final judgment that requires a payment to the justice's court.

(b) In the event that a private person or entity is retained to collect a judgment, the justice's court may assign the judgment to the private person or entity and the private person or entity may, as an assignee, institute a suit or other lawful collection procedure and other postjudgment remedies in its own name.

(c) The justice's court may pay the private person or entity a reasonable fee for collecting the judgment. The fee incurred by the justice's court must be added to the judgment amount.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 84, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 4930, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4930, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 420, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 25-307; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 667, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 449, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 515, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 470, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 510, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Collection and payment of money, 3-10-222.
State traffic education account, 20-7-504, 20-7-506, 20-7-507.
Fees of Clerk of District Court, 25-1-201.
Poor person not required to prepay fees, 25-10-404.
Municipal Court — fees and fines — collection, 25-30-102.
Justices' Courts — fees in civil actions, 25-31-112.
When fees payable, 25-31-113.
Taxing of costs, 25-31-1002.
Justices' Courts — deposit of fines, 46-17-303.
Municipal Courts — fees and fines — collection, 46-17-402.
Fines in felony and misdemeanor cases, 46-18-231.
Disposition of money collected as fines and costs, 46-18-235.
Imposition of charge upon conviction or forfeiture — administration, 46-18-236.
Allocation of fines, costs, restitution, and other charges, 46-18-251.
Disposition of fines and forfeitures, 46-18-603.
Use of fish and game money — exception, 87-1-601.

3-10-602. Penalty. A justice of the peace violating 3-10-601 is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding $1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months in the county jail, or both. The violator is also guilty of malfeasance in office and, in the discretion of the court, may be removed from office. A person removed from office is disqualified from holding the office of justice of the peace.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 84, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 4931, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4931, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 25-308; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References
Disqualification, 3-1-602; Title 3, ch. 1, part 8; 3-10-231.
Collection and payment of money, 3-10-222.
Official misconduct, 45-7-401.

3-10-603. Repealed. Sec. 64, Ch. 557, L. 1987.

History: (1), (2)En. 25-310 by Sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 420, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1977; Sec. 25-310, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. 25-311 by Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 420, L. 1975; Sec. 25-311, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 25-310, 25-311.

Part 7
Constables

3-10-701. Constables to attend court. Constables must attend the courts of justices of the peace within their counties whenever so required and execute, serve, and return all process and notices directed or delivered to them by a justice of the peace or by any competent authority of such county.

History: En. Sec. 4550, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3096, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4859, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4314; re-en. Sec. 4859, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 253, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3601.

3-10-702. Governed by law prescribing sheriffs' duties. (1) All the provisions of 3-5-407, 7-32-2101, 7-32-2102, 7-32-2121(1) through (3) and (7) through (12), 7-32-2122, 7-32-2124, 7-32-2127, 7-32-2129 through 7-32-2131, 7-32-2250, 25-3-101, 25-3-202, 25-3-204 through 25-3-206, 25-3-301, 25-3-302, 25-13-403, 27-18-305, and 27-18-1505 apply to constables and govern their powers, duties, and liabilities.

(2) The provisions of 7-32-2141(1) apply to constables. Fees collected by a constable for services, as provided in 7-32-2141(1), must be paid to the county treasurer, as provided in 7-4-2511(2), and credited to the budget of the justice's court.

History: En. Sec. 4551, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3098, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4861, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4315; re-en. Sec. 4861, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 16-3603; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 569, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 16, L. 1991.

3-10-703. Compensation. The board of county commissioners shall, by resolution, on or before July 1 of each year, fix the salary of constables for the following fiscal year. Constables shall receive mileage, at the rate provided by law, when performing their official duties.

History: En. 25-312 by Sec. 9, Ch. 253, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 25-312.

3-10-704. Deputy constables. If in any county there is no appointed constable, the board of county commissioners may, at the request of a party, after being satisfied that it is expedient to do so, specially deputize any proper person of suitable age not interested in the action to serve a summons, with or without an order to arrest the defendant and with or without a writ of attachment, or to serve an execution. The county commissioners are liable upon their official bonds for all official acts of the person so deputized. The appointment of the deputy shall be made in writing on the process, and a note thereof shall be made on the justice's docket.

History: En. Sec. 627, p. 168, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 733, p. 184, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 793, p. 187, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 813, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1688, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, p. 138, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 7086, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9719, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9719, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 253, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7709.

Cross-References
Applicability to Municipal Court, 25-30-101.

3-10-705. Authority of deputy. The person so deputed shall have the authority of a constable in relation to the service, execution, and return of such process and shall be subject to the same obligations.

History: En. Sec. 628, p. 168, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 734, p. 184, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 794, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 814, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1689, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7087, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9720, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9720, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7710.

3-10-706. Execution of process by retiring constable. A constable, notwithstanding the expiration of the constable's term of office, may proceed and complete the execution of all final process that the constable has begun to execute, in the same manner as if the constable were still in office, and the sureties are liable to the same extent.

History: En. Sec. 629, p. 168, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 735, p. 184, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 795, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 815, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1690, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7088, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9721, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9721, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-7711; amd. Sec. 199, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Applicability to Municipal Court, 25-30-101.

Parts 8 and 9 reserved

Part 10
Small Claims Division

Part Cross-References

Small Claims Courts, Title 3, ch. 12.
Municipal infractions, 7-1-4151.
Small claims procedure — Justice's Court, Title 25, ch. 35.

3-10-1001. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part and Title 25, chapter 35, to provide a speedy remedy for small claims and to promote a forum in which such claims may be heard and disposed of without the necessity of a formal trial.

History: En. 93-345 by Sec. 1, Ch. 572, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-345; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 586, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Generally, Title 25, ch. 35.

3-10-1002. Creation. There is established within the jurisdiction of each justice's court in this state a small claims division to be known as the "small claims court".

History: En. 93-346 by Sec. 2, Ch. 572, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-346.

3-10-1003. Location — hours. The small claims division of justice's court shall be located at the same place as the justice's court and shall be open during the same hours as the justice's court.

History: En. 93-360 by Sec. 16, Ch. 572, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-360.

3-10-1004. Jurisdiction — removal from district court. (1) The small claims court has jurisdiction over all actions for the recovery of money or specific personal property when the amount claimed does not exceed $7,000, exclusive of costs, and the defendant can be served within the county where the action is commenced.

(2) A district court judge may require any action filed in district court to be removed to the small claims court if the amount in controversy does not exceed $7,000. The small claims court shall hear any action so removed from the district court.

History: En. 93-347 by Sec. 3, Ch. 572, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-347; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 586, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 438, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 284, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Jurisdiction, 3-10-301, 25-35-502.
Small claims — Justice's Court, Title 25, ch. 35.

3-10-1005. Docket entries. The justice of the peace shall enter in the docket kept by the justice for small claims cases the following:

(1) the title of each action;
(2) the amount claimed;
(3) the date the order of court/notice to defendant was signed and the date of the trial as stated in the order;
(4) the date the parties appeared or the date on which default was entered;
(5) each adjournment, stating on whose application and to what time;
(6) the judgment of the court;
(7) a statement of any money paid to the justice, when, and by whom;
(8) the date of the issuance of any abstract of the judgment; and
(9) the date of the receipt of the notice of appeal, if any is given, and of the appeal bond, if any is filed.

History: En. 93-361 by Sec. 17, Ch. 572, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-361(2); amd. Sec. 200, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Contents of docket, 3-10-501.
Entry of judgment, 25-35-801.

CHAPTER 11
CITY COURTS

Part 1 — Creation and Jurisdiction

3-11-101. City court established — city court of record.
3-11-102. Concurrent jurisdiction.
3-11-103. Exclusive jurisdiction.
3-11-104. Exceptions to civil jurisdiction.
3-11-105 through 3-11-108 reserved.
3-11-109. Powers and duties of city court of record.
3-11-110. Appeal to district court from city court of record — record on appeal.

Part 2 — City Judges

3-11-201. Number of judges — term of office.
3-11-202. Salary — qualifications.
3-11-203. When substitute for judge called in.
3-11-204. Training sessions for judges.
3-11-205. Justice of the peace or judge of another city as city judge.
3-11-206. City to provide facilities — conduct of court business — electronic filing and storage of court records.

Part 3 — Procedure in City Courts

3-11-301. City attorney to prosecute.
3-11-302. Who named as plaintiff.
3-11-303. Contempts city judge may punish for — procedure.

Part 1
Creation and Jurisdiction

Part Cross-References

Legislature authorized to establish City Courts, Art. VII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Several courts of this state, 3-1-101.
Appellate jurisdiction of District Court, 3-5-303.
Removal to District Court, 3-5-313.
Election or appointment of City Judge, 7-4-4101 through 7-4-4114.
Limitation on service of City Court warrant of arrest, 7-32-4301, 7-32-4302, 46-6-215.
Appeal from Justices', Municipal, and City Courts, 46-17-311.

3-11-101. City court established — city court of record. (1) A city court is established in each city or town. A city judge shall establish regular sessions of the court. On judicial days, the court must be open for all business, civil and criminal. On nonjudicial days, as defined in 3-1-302, the court may transact criminal business only.

(2) A city may establish the city court as a court of record. If the city court is established as a court of record, it must be known as a "city court of record". The court's proceedings must be recorded by electronic recording or stenographic transcription, and all papers filed in a proceeding must be included in the record. A city court of record may be established by a resolution of the city commissioners or pursuant to 7-5-131 through 7-5-135 and 7-5-137.

History: (1)En. Sec. 4910, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3296, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5087, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 5087, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 344, L. 1977; Sec. 11-1601, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 80, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6289, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8843, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 121; re-en. Sec. 8843, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 165, L. 1975; Sec. 93-411, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1601, 93-411(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 543, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 292, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 38, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 49, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Changing inaccurate terminology to conform with definition of City Court, 1-11-101.

3-11-102. Concurrent jurisdiction. (1) The city court has concurrent jurisdiction with the justice's court of all misdemeanors and proceedings mentioned and provided for under chapter 10, part 3, of this title.

(2) Applications for search warrants and complaints charging the commission of a felony may be filed in the city court. When they are filed, the city judge has the same jurisdiction and responsibility as a justice of the peace, including the holding of a preliminary hearing. The city attorney may file an application for a search warrant or a complaint charging the commission of a felony when the offense was committed within the city limits. The county attorney, however, must handle any action after a defendant is bound over to district court.

History: **En. Sec. 4911, Pol. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 3297, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5088, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4426; re-en. Sec. 5088, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 165, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1602; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 543, L. 1987.**

Cross-References

Youth Court — concurrent jurisdiction over alcoholic beverage, tobacco products and gambling violations, 41-5-203.

Crimes — jurisdiction, 46-2-203.

Search warrants, Title 46, ch. 5, part 2.

3-11-103. Exclusive jurisdiction. Except as provided in 3-11-104, the city court has exclusive jurisdiction of:

(1) proceedings for the violation of an ordinance of the city or town, both civil and criminal;

(2) when the amount of the taxes or assessments sought does not exceed $9,500, actions for the collection of taxes or assessments levied for any of the following purposes, except that no lien on the property taxed or assessed for the nonpayment of the taxes or assessments may be foreclosed in any such action:

(a) city or town purposes;

(b) the erection or improvement of public buildings;

(c) the laying out, opening, or improving of a public street, sidewalk, alley, or bridge;

(d) the acquisition or improvement of any public grounds; and

(e) public improvements made or ordered by the city or town within its limits;

(3) actions for the collection of money due to the city or town or from the city or town to any person when the amount sought, exclusive of interest and costs, does not exceed $9,500;

(4) when the amount claimed, exclusive of costs, does not exceed $9,500, actions for:

(a) the breach of an official bond given by a city or town officer;

(b) the breach of any contract when the city or town is a party or is in any way interested;

(c) damages when the city or town is a party or is in any way interested;

(d) the enforcement of forfeited recognizances given to, for the benefit of, or on behalf of the city or town; and

(e) collection on bonds given upon an appeal taken from the judgment of the court in any action mentioned in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(d);

(5) actions for the recovery of personal property belonging to the city or town when the value of the property, exclusive of the damages for the taking or detention, does not exceed $9,500; and

(6) actions for the collection of a license fee required by an ordinance of the city or town.

History: **En. Sec. 4912, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3298, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5089, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4427; re-en. Sec. 5089, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1603; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 409, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 348, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 307, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 284, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Jurisdiction of Municipal Courts, 3-6-103.

Records of Municipal Courts, 3-6-302.

Civil jurisdiction of Justices' Courts, 3-10-301.

Municipal infractions, 7-1-4151.

Crimes — jurisdiction, 46-2-203.

3-11-104. Exceptions to civil jurisdiction. City courts do not have jurisdiction in civil actions that might result in a judgment against the state for the payment of money.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 409, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Crimes — jurisdiction, 46-2-203.

3-11-105 through 3-11-108 reserved.

3-11-109. Powers and duties of city court of record. (1) Except as otherwise provided by Title 25, chapter 30, and this chapter, the judge in a city court of record has, in matters within its jurisdiction, all the powers and duties of district judges in like cases. The judge may make and alter rules for the conduct of its business and prescribe forms of process conformable to law.

(2) The city court of record shall establish rules for appeal to district court. The rules are subject to the supreme court's rulemaking and supervisory authority.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 38, L. 2011.**

3-11-110. Appeal to district court from city court of record — record on appeal. (1) A party may appeal to district court a judgment or order from a city court of record. The appeal is confined to review of the record and questions of law, subject to the supreme court's rulemaking and supervisory authority.

(2) The record on appeal to district court consists of an electronic recording or stenographic transcription of a case tried, together with all papers filed in the action.

(3) The district court may affirm, reverse, or amend any appealed order or judgment and may direct the proper order or judgment to be entered or direct that a new trial or further proceeding be had in the court from which the appeal was taken.

(4) Unless the supreme court establishes rules for appeal from a city court of record to the district court, the Montana Uniform Municipal Court Rules of Appeal to District Court, codified in Title 25, chapter 30, apply to appeals to district court from the city court of record.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 38, L. 2011.

Part 2
City Judges

Part Cross-References

Vacancy in office, 2-16-501, 3-11-204, 7-4-4111, 7-4-4112.

Courts of limited jurisdiction — training and certification of judges, Title 3, ch. 1, part 15.

Qualifications, 7-4-4104.

Assault on peace officer or judicial officer, 45-5-210.

3-11-201. Number of judges — term of office. (1) The governing body of a city may determine by ordinance the number of judges required to operate the city court.

(2) An elected or appointed city judge shall hold office for a term of 4 years and until the qualification of a successor.

(3) A justice of the peace designated to act as city judge for a city or town under 3-11-205 shall serve as city judge for the duration of the justice of the peace's term as justice of the peace or until the agreement provided for in 3-11-205 terminates.

History: En. Sec. 4, p. 122, L. 1893; amd. Sec. 4748, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3224, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5003, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5003, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-709(part); amd. Sec. 377, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 269, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 416, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 543, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 292, L. 1995.

3-11-202. Salary — qualifications. (1) A city judge, at the time of election or appointment must:

(a) meet the qualifications of a justice of the peace under 3-10-202;

(b) be a resident of the county in which the city or town is located; and

(c) satisfy any additional qualifications prescribed by ordinance.

(2) The annual salary and compensation of city judges must be fixed by ordinance or resolution.

(3) Each city judge shall receive actual and necessary travel expenses, as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred in the performance of official duties.

History: En. Sec. 4765, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3241, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 5020, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 5020, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 76, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 158, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 11-726; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 543, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 201, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Salary of officers, 7-4-4201.

3-11-203. When substitute for judge called in. (1) The city judge or mayor may call in a city judge, a justice of the peace, or some qualified person to act in the judge's place whenever the judge is:

(a) a party in a case;

(b) interested in a case;

(c) the spouse of or related to either party in a case by consanguinity or affinity within the sixth degree; or

(d) sick, absent, or unable to act.

(2) The city judge may call in a city judge, justice of the peace, or some qualified person to act in the city judge's place when a disqualifying affidavit is filed against the judge pursuant to the supreme court's rules on disqualification and substitution of judges.

(3) A city judge of any city or a justice of the peace of any county may sit as city judge at the city judge's request.

History: En. Sec. 4913, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3299, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5090, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4428; re-en. Sec. 5090, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 420, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1604; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 543, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 202, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Disqualification, Title 3, ch. 1, part 8.

3-11-204. Training sessions for judges. (1) There must be two mandatory annual training sessions supervised by the supreme court for all elected and appointed city judges. One of the training sessions may be held in conjunction with the Montana magistrates' association convention. Actual and necessary travel expenses, as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, and the costs of registration and books and other materials must be paid to the elected or appointed judge for attending the sessions. Whenever the office of city judge is held by a justice of the peace, the costs imposed by this subsection are the joint responsibility of the county and the municipality, with the costs to be allocated and charged in proportion to the work done for each governmental entity. In all other cases, the costs must be paid by the city or town in which the judge holds or will hold court and must be charged against that city or town.

(2) Each city judge shall attend the training sessions. Failure to attend disqualifies the judge from office and creates a vacancy in the office. However, the supreme court may excuse a city judge from attendance because of illness, a death in the family, or any other good cause.

History: En. Sec. 80, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6289, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8843, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 121; re-en. Sec. 8843, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 165, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-411(2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 466, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 528, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 203, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Training and certification of judges, Title 3, ch. 1, part 15.

3-11-205. Justice of the peace or judge of another city as city judge. (1) In a town or third-class city, the council may designate a justice of the peace or the city judge of another city or town to act as city judge. The justice of the peace or city judge must reside in the county in which the town or city is situated. The city or town may by ordinance fix the funding for the judge and enter into an agreement with the county, the other city or town, or the justice of the peace or the judge for payment of salaries and training expenses. The justice of the peace or other city judge shall, after agreeing to the designation and after approval by the board of county commissioners or governing body of the city or town, act in that capacity and is the city judge in all cases arising out of violations of statutes or ordinances. If the justice of the peace or city judge of another city or town is required to travel from the justice's or judge's place of residence to hold court, the justice or judge must be paid the actual and necessary travel expenses, as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, by the town or city in which the court is held.

(2) The offices of city judge and justice of the peace may be combined if a justice of the peace is authorized in a city pursuant to 3-10-101.

History: (1)En. Sec. 4766, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3242, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5021, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 5021, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 491, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 420, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-727; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 528, L. 1979; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 56, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 269, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 423, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 300, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 204, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Expenses, 3-10-209.

3-11-206. City to provide facilities — conduct of court business — electronic filing and storage of court records. (1) The governing body of the city in which the judge has been elected or appointed:

(a) shall provide for the city court:

(i) the office space, courtroom, and clerical assistance necessary to enable the judge and the clerk of city court, if any, to conduct business in dignified surroundings;

(ii) the books, records, forms, papers, stationery, postage, office equipment, and supplies necessary for the proper keeping of the records and files of the court and the transaction of business; and

(iii) one copy of the latest edition of the Montana Code Annotated and all official supplements or immediate access to the code and supplements; and

(b) may provide a clerk of city court.

(2) The provisions of 3-6-302(1) and 3-6-303 concerning conduct of municipal court business apply to the city court.

(3) The records of the court may be kept by means of electronic filing or storage, or both, as provided in 3-1-114 and 3-1-115, in lieu of or in addition to paper records.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 466, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 174, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 6, L. 2001.**

Part 3
Procedure in City Courts

Part Cross-References

Offense of partner or family member assault not to be included in bail schedule, 46-9-302.

3-11-301. City attorney to prosecute. Except as provided in 46-17-203, the city attorney must prosecute all cases for the violation of any ordinance and prosecute, conduct, and control all proceedings in cases mentioned in 3-11-103, both in the city court and on appeal from the city court to the district court.

History: **En. Sec. 4917, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3303, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5094, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 5094, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1608; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 277, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Appellate jurisdiction of District Court, 3-5-301, 3-5-303.
Time for appeal, 25-33-102.
Criminal appeal, 46-17-311.

3-11-302. Who named as plaintiff. (1) A criminal action brought for violation of a city or town ordinance must be brought in the name of the city or town as the plaintiff and against the accused as the defendant.

(2) A criminal action brought for violation of a state law within the city or town may be brought either in the name of the state of Montana as the plaintiff or in the name of the city or town as the plaintiff and must be brought against the accused as the defendant.

(3) A criminal action brought for violation of a state law within the county and within its concurrent jurisdiction with the justice's court must be brought in the name of the state of Montana as the plaintiff and against the accused as the defendant.

(4) A civil action brought in the city court must be prosecuted or defended in the same manner as a civil action in justices' courts under the Montana Justice and City Court Rules of Civil Procedure (Title 25, chapter 23).

History: **En. 11-1603.1 by Sec. 6, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-1603.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 543, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 16, L. 1991.**

3-11-303. Contempts city judge may punish for — procedure. (1) A city judge may punish for contempt persons guilty of only the following acts:

(a) disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior toward the judge while holding the court tending to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;

(b) a breach of the peace, boisterous conduct, or violent disturbance in the presence of the judge or in the immediate vicinity of the court held by the judge tending to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;

(c) disobedience or resistance to the execution of a lawful order or process made or issued by the judge;

(d) disobedience to a subpoena served or refusal to be sworn or to answer as a witness;

(e) rescuing any person or property in the custody of an officer by virtue of an order or process of the court.

(2) The procedures contained in 3-1-501(3) and (4), 3-1-511 through 3-1-518, and 3-1-520 through 3-1-523 apply.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 466, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 496, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Powers of judicial officers as to conduct of proceedings, 3-1-111, 3-1-402.
Power to punish for contempt, 3-1-403.
Contempts, Title 3, chapter 1, part 5.
Contempts in Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10, part 4.
Criminal contempts, 45-7-309.

CHAPTER 12
SMALL CLAIMS COURTS

Part 1 — General Provisions

3-12-101. Purpose — liberal construction.
3-12-102. Small claims court authorized.
3-12-103. Creation of court.
3-12-104. Duration of court.
3-12-105. Location — hours.
3-12-106. Repealed.
3-12-107. Procedure.

Part 2 — Small Claims Court Judge

3-12-201. Appointment — salary and expenses — qualifications.
3-12-202. Assistance to claimants.
3-12-203. Judge in multicounty district.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References
Small claims division — Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10, part 10.

3-12-101. Purpose — liberal construction. It is the purpose of this chapter to provide a speedy remedy in claims falling under this chapter and to promote a forum in which the claims may be heard and disposed of without the necessity of formal trial. For this reason, the provisions of this chapter should be liberally construed to provide an informal but equitable means of justice, and the judges appointed under this chapter are required to assist all parties before them to obtain substantial justice.

History: En. 93-328 by Sec. 7, Ch. 519, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-328; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 241, L. 1997.

3-12-102. Small claims court authorized. There may be created within the jurisdiction of the district court of any county of the state of Montana a separate court, known as the "small claims court".

History: En. 93-322 by Sec. 1, Ch. 519, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-322.

3-12-103. Creation of court. (1) A small claims court may be created by a resolution passed by the board of county commissioners after consultation with the district court judges of the judicial district in which the county is located or by county initiative as provided in Title 7, chapter 5, part 1.

(2) Upon passage of the resolution or initiative, the judge of the appropriate judicial district shall, by court order, establish a small claims court under the provisions of this chapter.

(3) When the order is filed with the clerk of the district court of the appropriate county, the clerk of the district court becomes the clerk of the small claims court.

History: En. 93-323 by Sec. 2, Ch. 519, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-323; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 378, Ch. 571, L. 1979.

3-12-104. Duration of court. A small claims court created under this chapter continues in existence until abolished by the same means by which it was formed under 3-12-103. Any small claims court may be abolished by county initiative as provided in 3-12-103.

History: En. 93-324 by Sec. 3, Ch. 519, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-324.

3-12-105. Location — hours. (1) The small claims court shall be located in the appropriate district and shall be open as required by the district judge.

(2) In the event that more than one small claims court judge has been appointed, the judges so appointed may divide their responsibility hereunder.

History: En. 93-326 by Sec. 5, Ch. 519, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-326(part).

3-12-106. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 241, L. 1997.

History: En. 93-329 by Sec. 8, Ch. 519, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-329; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 438, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 10, L. 1993.

3-12-107. Procedure. A small claims court created under this chapter shall follow the small claims procedure used in justice's court, as provided in Title 25, chapter 35.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 1997.

Part 2
Small Claims Court Judge

3-12-201. Appointment — salary and expenses — qualifications. (1) The judges of the judicial district in which a small claims court has been created shall appoint a judge of the small claims court who shall:

(a) take the oath required of judges;

(b) serve at the pleasure of the district court judges;

(c) be paid a salary set by the district court judges and actual and necessary travel expenses, as defined and provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503; and

(d) be an attorney licensed to practice law in Montana.

(2) The judges of the district court may appoint more than one small claims court judge for any small claims court. The salary shall be prorated among the judges appointed.

History: En. 93-325 by Sec. 4, Ch. 519, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-325; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 528, L. 1979.

3-12-202. Assistance to claimants. The small claims court judge shall assist any claimant in preparing an affidavit or may direct the clerk of court to provide such assistance.

History: En. 93-326 by Sec. 5, Ch. 519, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-326(part).

3-12-203. Judge in multicounty district. (1) When there is more than one county in the judicial district and the county commissioners of more than one county in that district create small claims courts, the district court judges may provide that the same judge of small claims court may preside over more than one of the small claims courts in the judicial district.

(2) In the cases described in subsection (1), the salary of the small claims court judge must be prorated among the counties in which the judge presides.

(3) The judge is entitled to collect mileage for the distance actually traveled when required to convene small claims court in more than one county, pursuant to 2-18-503.

History: En. 93-327 by Sec. 6, Ch. 519, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-327; amd. Sec. 205, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

CHAPTERS 13 AND 14
RESERVED

CHAPTER 15
JURIES AND JURORS

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Part 8 — Juries of Inquest

3-15-801. Summoning juries.
3-15-802. Manner of impaneling.

Part 1

Juries — Definitions and Composition

3-15-101. Jury defined. A jury is a body of persons temporarily selected from the citizens of a particular district and invested with power to present or indict a person for a public offense or to try a question of fact.

History: En. Sec. 220, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6330, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8883, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 190; re-en. Sec. 8883, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1201.

Cross-References

Examination in presence of jury defined, 1-1-202.
Residence of jurors, 3-15-302, 3-15-402, 3-15-506.
When issues of fact to be decided, 25-7-103, 25-7-302, 26-1-202.
Juror defined, 45-2-101.

3-15-102. Kinds of juries. Juries are of three kinds:

(1) grand juries;
(2) trial juries;
(3) juries of inquest.

History: En. Sec. 221, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6331, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8884, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 191; re-en. Sec. 8884, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1202.

3-15-103. Grand jury defined. A grand jury is a body of persons, 11 in number, returned as provided by law from the citizens of a county before a court of competent jurisdiction and sworn to inquire into public offenses committed or triable within the county.

History: En. Sec. 222, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6332, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8885, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 192; re-en. Sec. 8885, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 203, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1203.

Cross-References

Generally, Title 3, ch. 15, part 6.

3-15-104. Trial jury defined. Except as provided in 3-20-103, a trial jury is a body of persons returned from the citizens of a particular district before a court or officer of competent jurisdiction and sworn to try and determine, by verdict, a question of fact.

History: En. Sec. 223, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6333, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8886, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 193; re-en. Sec. 8886, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 203, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1204; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 473, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Jury trial rights, Art. II, sec. 26, Mont. Const.
Examination in presence of jury defined, 1-1-202.
Residence of jurors, 3-15-302, 3-15-402, 3-15-506.
Juror defined, 45-2-101.

3-15-105. Jury of inquest defined. A jury of inquest is a body of persons summoned from the citizens of a particular district before the sheriff, coroner, or other ministerial officer to inquire concerning particular facts.

History: En. Sec. 226, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6336, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8889, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 195; re-en. Sec. 8889, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 203, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1207.

Cross-References

Generally, Title 3, ch. 15, part 8.

3-15-106. Number of a trial jury. (1) A trial jury consists of 12 persons or, with the approval of the court, it may consist of any number less than 12 upon which the parties agree in open court.

(2) In all civil actions where the relief asked for in the complaint is under the sum of $10,000, a trial jury may, in the discretion of the trial judge, consist of six persons and two-thirds of the jury may render a verdict.

History: En. Sec. 224, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6334, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8887, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 194; re-en. Sec. 8887, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 203, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1205(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Persons drawn and approved to form jury, 25-7-205.

3-15-107. Number in justices' courts. A jury in a justice's court, in misdemeanors, consists of six persons, but the parties may agree to a less number than six.

History: En. Sec. 225, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6335, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8888, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8888, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1206; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 16, L. 1991.

Part 2
Jurors' Fees

3-15-201. Fees in courts of record. (1) A grand or trial jury panel member must receive $12 per day for attendance before any court of record and a mileage allowance, as provided in 2-18-503, for traveling each way between the member's residence and the court. Those jurors selected from the panel for a case must receive an additional $13 a day while serving.

(2) A juror who is excused from attendance upon the juror's own motion on the first day of appearance in obedience to a notice or who has been summoned as a special juror and not sworn in the trial of the case forfeits per diem and mileage.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 3178, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 4933, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 4933, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 9, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 25-401; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 206, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 52, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Mileage allowance for jurors, 2-18-503, 2-18-504.
Clerk to keep record, 3-5-510.
Fee for arbitration panel similarly computed, 75-7-115.

3-15-202. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 200, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 48, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 3180, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 4934, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4934, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 25-402.

3-15-203. Fees in courts not of record and coroner inquests. (1) A jury panel member in civil actions, criminal actions, and coroner inquests is entitled to a fee of $12 per day for attendance before a court not of record and a mileage allowance, as provided in 2-18-503, for traveling each way between the member's residence and the court. A jury panel member selected for a case is entitled to an additional $13 per day while serving.

(2) In civil actions, the jurors' fees must be paid by the party demanding the jury and taxed as costs against the losing party.

(3) A juror who is excused from attendance upon the juror's own motion on the first day of appearance in obedience to a notice or who has been summoned as a special juror and not sworn in the trial of the case shall forfeit per diem and mileage.

History: **En. Sec. 4647, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3181, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4935, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4935, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 332, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 25-403; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 660, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 207, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

3-15-204. Duties of clerk as to jurors. (1) The clerk shall keep a record of the attendance of jurors and compute the amount due for mileage. The distance from any point to the court must be determined by the shortest traveled route.

(2) A juror must receive payment by a county warrant that lists the name of the juror, the number of days' attendance, the number of miles traveled, and the amount due.

(3) The state shall reimburse the clerk for the amount specified in the warrant as provided in 3-5-901 and 3-5-902.

(4) The clerk of court for the county in which an asbestos-related claim is tried shall perform the functions required in subsections (1) through (3). The payment of costs incurred under this section must be made from the asbestos claims administration fund provided for in 3-20-104.

History: **En. Sec. 4645, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3179, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4937, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4937, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 25-405; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 379, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 66, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 473, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 152, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 52, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Travel expenses, 2-18-503, 2-18-504.

Duties of Clerk of District Court, 3-5-510.

3-15-205. Costs of impaneling jury. (1) In a civil action before a court of record in which the parties substantially agree to a settlement of the issues prior to impanelment of the jury and either settle the action or stipulate to a continuance and then fail or refuse to inform the court or clerk of court of the settlement or request a continuance and a jury is impaneled, the court may, upon hearing, assess the reasonable public expenses of impaneling the jury, including jury fees and mileage expenses paid or owing under 3-15-201, against any party.

(2) In civil actions, the court may assess against a party the reasonable public expenses of impaneling a jury, including jury fees and mileage expenses paid or owing under 3-15-201, if the court on an issue of law or the jury on an issue of fact determines that the party's case is frivolous or maintained for purposes of harassment. The court shall instruct the jury regarding the provisions of this subsection.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), costs collected under this section must be forwarded to the department of revenue for deposit in the state general fund.

(b) Costs collected under this section by the asbestos claims court provided for in 3-20-103 must be deposited in the asbestos claims administration fund provided for in 3-20-104.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 299, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 66, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 356, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 473, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 585, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

Part 3
Jurors — Competency and Excuses

3-15-301. Who competent — duty to serve. It is the policy of this state that all qualified citizens have an obligation to serve on juries upon being summoned for jury duty, unless excused. Except as provided in 3-15-303, a person is competent to act as a juror if the person is:

(1) 18 years of age or older;

(2) a resident for at least 30 days of the state and of the city, town, or county in which the person is called for jury duty; and

(3) a citizen of the United States.

History: Earlier statutes were Sec. 8, p. 506, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 1, p. 70, L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 780, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1, p. 57, L. 1881; re-en. Sec. 1304, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 230, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6337, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8890, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 198; re-en. Sec. 8890, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 203, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 298, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1301; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 441, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Qualified elector, Art. IV, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Selection of qualified persons, 3-15-402.
Qualifications of voter, 13-1-111.

3-15-302. Inhabitants of local government jurisdiction competent. (1) On the trial of an action in which a city or town is interested, the inhabitants thereof are competent jurors if otherwise competent and qualified according to law.

(2) On the trial on an action in which the county is interested, the inhabitants of such county are competent jurors if otherwise competent and qualified according to law.

History: (1)En. Sec. 5042, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3941, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8891, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8891, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-1302, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 341, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 750, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 4198, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2878, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4449, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4449, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 16-810, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-810, 93-1302.

Cross-References

Residence, 3-15-101, 3-15-104, 3-15-506.

3-15-303. Who not competent. A person is not competent to act as juror:

(1) who does not possess the qualifications prescribed by 3-15-301; or

(2) who has been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony or other high crime.

History: En. Sec. 231, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6338, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8892, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 199; re-en. Sec. 8892, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1303.

Cross-References

Selection of qualified persons, 3-15-402.

3-15-304 through 3-15-310 reserved.

3-15-311. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 51, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 9, p. 506, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 781, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1, p. 56, L. 1881; amd. Sec. 1, p. 101, L. 1883; re-en. Sec. 1305, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 232, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6339, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 8893, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 200; re-en. Sec. 8893, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 203, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 344, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 489, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1304(1) thru (3).

3-15-312. Discharge by court or jury commissioner. The court or jury commissioner with the approval of the court must discharge a person from serving as a trial juror in either of the following cases:

(1) when it satisfactorily appears that the person is not competent; or

(2) when it satisfactorily appears that the person should be excused under 3-15-313.

History: En. Sec. 9, p. 506, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 781, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1, p. 56, L. 1881; amd. Sec. 1, p. 101, L. 1883; re-en. Sec. 1305, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 232, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6339, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 8893, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 200; re-en. Sec. 8893, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 203, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 344, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 489, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1304(4); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 379, L. 1983.

3-15-313. Who may be excused — affidavit to claim excuse — permanent exclusion for chronically incapacitated. (1) The court or the jury commissioner with the approval of the court shall excuse a person from jury service upon finding that jury service would entail undue hardship for the person, a dependent of the person, or the public served by the person. An excuse may be granted if the prospective juror is a breastfeeding mother or otherwise has a personal obligation to provide actual and necessary care to another, including a sick, aged, or special needs dependent who requires the prospective juror's personal care and attention, and comparable substitute care is either unavailable or impractical without imposing an undue economic hardship on the prospective juror or dependent person.

(2) If a person believes jury service would entail undue hardship for the person, a dependent of the person, or the public served by the person, the person may make and transmit an affidavit to the jury commissioner for which the person is summoned, stating the person's occupation or other facts that the person believes will excuse the person from jury service. The

affidavit must be filed with the jury commissioner, who shall transmit it to the court. The court or the jury commissioner with the approval of the court shall excuse a prospective juror from jury service if the prospective juror satisfies the provisions of subsection (1).

(3) A person who is chronically incapacitated by illness or injury may request a permanent exclusion from jury service by making and transmitting an affidavit to the jury commissioner of the person's place of residence. The affidavit must include a certification by the person's physician that the person is chronically incapacitated by illness or injury. The affidavit must be filed with the jury commissioner, who shall transmit it to the court. The court or jury commissioner with the approval of the court may permanently excuse a prospective juror from jury service if the prospective juror satisfies the provisions of this subsection (3).

(4) For purposes of subsection (3), a person is chronically incapacitated if the person has a condition due to an illness or injury that restricts the person's ability to leave the person's place of residence without the aid of supportive devices, such as crutches, a cane, a wheelchair, or a walker, that restricts the person's ability to leave home without the use of special transportation or the assistance of another person, or that causes leaving home to be medically contraindicated. Examples of factors to be taken into account in determining whether chronic incapacitation exists include but are not limited to the following:

(a) paralysis by a stroke or other cause;

(b) blindness;

(c) senility;

(d) loss of the use of a person's extremities requiring the assistance of another in leaving the person's place of residence;

(e) arteriosclerotic heart disease of such severity that a person is required to avoid all stress and physical activity; or

(f) a psychiatric problem if the illness is manifested in part by a refusal to leave home or is of such a nature that it would not be considered safe for the person to leave home unattended, even if there are no physical limitations.

History: En. Sec. 233, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6340, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8894, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 201; re-en. Sec. 8894, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 203, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1305; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 51, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 379, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 345, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Excuse of prospective jurors who are governmental employees, 2-18-619.

3-15-314. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 51, L. 1981; sec. 7, Ch. 200, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 234, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6341, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8895, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 202; re-en. Sec. 8895, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 203, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1306.

3-15-315 through 3-15-320 reserved.

3-15-321. Attachment and fine for failure to attend. Any juror summoned who willfully and without reasonable excuse fails to attend may be attached and compelled to attend. The court may impose a fine not exceeding $50, upon which execution may issue. If the juror was not personally served, the fine must not be imposed until, upon an order to show cause, an opportunity has been offered the juror to be heard. The court may for good cause remit, modify, or cause any fine collected to be refunded.

History: En. Sec. 310, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6363, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8917, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 238; re-en. Sec. 8917, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1701.

Cross-References

Failure to attend, 3-1-501, 25-7-206.

Part 4
Jury Lists

3-15-401. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 133, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 240, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6342, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8896, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 204; re-en. Sec. 8896, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1401(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 1981.

3-15-402. Selection of qualified persons. The secretary of state shall select from the most recent list of all registered active electors, as defined in 13-1-101, and make a list of the names of all persons qualified to serve as trial jurors, as prescribed in part 3 of this chapter.

On or before the second Monday of April of each year, the secretary of state shall deliver the list to the office of court administrator. The office of court administrator shall then combine the resulting list with the list submitted to the office of court administrator under 61-5-127, ensuring that a person's name does not appear on the combined list more than once. Each name appearing on the combined list must be assigned a number that must be placed opposite the name on the combined list and must be considered the number of the juror opposite whose name it appears. A person's name may not appear on a combined list for more than one court during a 1-year term.

History: En. Sec. 241, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6343, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 8897, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8897, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1402; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 345, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 241, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 441, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Qualified elector, Art. IV, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Residence, 3-15-101, 3-15-104, 3-15-302, 3-15-506.
Jurors to be chosen from electors, 3-15-301.
Elector defined, 13-1-101.

3-15-403. Jury lists — filing — public inspection. (1) On or before the first Monday in May, the combined list prepared under 3-15-402 must be delivered by the office of court administrator to the clerk of the district court and filed by the clerk of the district court in the clerk of the district court's office no later than 5 business days after the receipt of the combined list.

(2) A copy of the latest jury lists filed under subsection (1) and compiled under 3-15-404 and 46-17-202 and a description of the approved computerized random selection process, if one is used, must be kept in the office of the clerk of the district court. An excerpt, listing the name, address, and birth year of all jurors, must be made available for public inspection during normal business hours.

History: En. Sec. 242, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6344, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8898, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 208; re-en. Sec. 8898, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1403; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 200, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 241, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 441, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 133, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 24, L. 2017.

3-15-404. Duty of jury commissioner — jury box or computer database. (1) The clerk of court is the jury commissioner and may appoint a deputy pursuant to 7-4-2401.

(2) A county jury commissioner may by order establish the use of either a jury box, as provided in subsection (3), or a computer database, as provided in subsection (4), as the means for selecting jurors in the county.

(3) If a county uses a jury box for selection of jurors, the jury commissioner shall prepare and keep a jury box and contents as prescribed in this subsection. The number of each juror must be written, typed, or stamped on a slip of paper or other suitable material, identical in all respects to the slips used for the other numbers. The slips must be placed in a box of ample size to permit them to be thoroughly mixed. The box must be plainly marked "jury box". The slips may be used as often as necessary, except that none may be used that is in any manner defaced or disfigured or so marked that it may be recognized or distinguished from the others in the jury box except by the number on the slip. The box may contain only one slip for each number corresponding to the number before the name of each juror on the jury list filed under 3-15-403.

(4) If a county uses a computer database for selection of jurors, the jury commissioner shall cause the list of jurors filed under 3-15-403 to be entered into a computerized database.

(5) A person's name may not appear on a jury list for more than one court during a 1-year term.

(6) The clerk of court shall prepare a list of persons to serve as trial jurors for the ensuing year for the district court or each division of the district court. On or before the second Monday of June, the clerk of court shall prepare the jury list pursuant to 46-17-202.

(7) If the clerk of court is satisfied that a person whose name is drawn is deceased, is mentally incompetent, has permanently moved from the county, or has been permanently excused under the provisions of 3-15-313, the person's name must be omitted from the jury list. The reason for the omission must be recorded.

History: En. Sec. 243, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6345, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 8899, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 209; re-en. Sec. 8899, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 168, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1404; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 162, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 241, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 441, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 133, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Jury box used in drawing grand jury, 3-15-601.

3-15-405. Notice to jurors. The clerk of court shall serve notice by mail on the persons drawn as jurors and require the persons to respond by mail as to their qualifications to serve as jurors. The clerk of court may attach to the notice a jury questionnaire and a form for an affidavit claiming an excuse from service provided for in 3-15-313. If a person fails to respond to the notice, the clerk shall certify the failure to the sheriff, who shall serve the notice personally on the person and make reasonable efforts to require the person to respond to the notice.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 1999.

3-15-406 through 3-15-410 reserved.

3-15-411. Term of service of jurors. (1) The persons whose names are so returned are known as regular jurors and must serve for 1 year and until other persons are selected and returned unless they are excused by the court or a judge pursuant to 3-15-501.

(2) If jurors are drawn before the selection and return of the new jury list as provided in this part and thereafter a new jury list is returned, they shall continue to serve as jurors, if the business of the court requires the attendance of a jury, for a period not exceeding 90 days.

(3) Notwithstanding such limitation of service, a jury composed of such jurors duly impaneled to try any cause shall continue to serve in such cause until discharged by the court from any further consideration of such cause. The fact that a new jury list has been returned shall not affect their status as jurors.

History: En. Sec. 245, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6347, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8901, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 210; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 135, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 8901, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1406; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 313, L. 1979.

Part 5

Trial Juries — District Court

Part Cross-References

Trial by jury, Art. II, sec. 26, Mont. Const.
Trial jury defined, 3-15-104.
Number in Justices' Courts, 3-15-107.
Trials — selection of jury, Title 25, ch. 7, part 2.
State's right to jury trial in criminal cases, 46-16-110, 46-17-201.

3-15-501. Order directing that trial jury be drawn and summoned. (1) If a civil or criminal case has been at issue and ready for trial for more than 6 months and the plaintiff or defendant has requested a jury trial or whenever the business of a district court requires the attendance of a trial jury for the trial of civil or criminal cases and a jury is not in attendance, the court shall order a trial jury to be drawn and summoned to attend before the court. The order must specify the number of jurors to be drawn. The time at which the jurors are required to attend is at the discretion of the court.

(2) The court may direct that a criminal or civil proceeding in which a jury may be required or may have been demanded be continued and fixed for trial at a time when a jury will be in attendance.

(3) The judge or judges of a district or the judge of a department may designate that jury service in the district or department is on a "one-day or one-trial" basis; that is, each individual juror is excused for the rest of the year after having attended for 1 day and not having been selected to serve at the trial of a particular cause or after having completed service at a trial.

(4) If the number of unexcused jurors is not sufficient to meet current requirements at any time, jurors excused under subsection (3) may be required to serve.

History: En. Sec. 260, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6348, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8902, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 214; re-en. Sec. 8902, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1501; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 313, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 379, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 241, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Term of service unless excused, 3-15-411.

3-15-502. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 241, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 261, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6349, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8903, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 215; re-en. Sec. 8903, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 151, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 168, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1502; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 200, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 379, L. 1983.

3-15-503. Drawing — how conducted. (1) (a) If the drawing of jurors is conducted by means of a jury box, the jury commissioner shall place the box on a rod so that it may readily revolve. The box must be revolved a sufficient number of times to ensure that the numbered slips in it become thoroughly mixed. The jury commissioner shall then draw from the box, one at a time, as many of the numbered slips as are ordered by the court.

(b) If the drawing of jurors is conducted by means of a computerized database, it must be conducted by use of a computerized random selection process that the judges of the district court of the county have approved in writing as satisfactorily fulfilling the requirements for the drawing of trial juries.

(2) A record of the drawing must be entered in the minutes of the court. It must show the names of the jurors corresponding to the numbers drawn from the jury box or the names drawn by means of the computerized random selection process.

History: En. Sec. 262, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6350, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 35, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 8904, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 219; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 8904, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 151, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 3, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 168, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 110, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1503; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 313, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 200, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 162, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 241, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Use of juror box, 25-7-202.
Drawing additional jurors, 25-7-206.

3-15-504. Drawing by two or more judges in same district. In districts where there are two or more judges, each judge may order jurors drawn and summoned to attend the session or term over which that judge presides, as provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 267, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6355, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8909, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8909, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1508; amd. Sec. 209, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-15-505. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 241, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 280, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6356, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 9, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 8910, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 225; re-en. Sec. 8910, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1509; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 51, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 379, L. 1983.

3-15-506. Obtaining additional jurors when necessary. (1) If it appears to a district judge that additional jurors will be needed for a trial, the jury commissioner shall draw as many jurors as are necessary to secure the required number of additional jurors. Before the jury commissioner draws the jurors, the judge shall by appropriate order designate the number of jurors needed.

(2) If the judge believes that securing the additional jurors from the whole county would cause unnecessary delay or expense, the judge may order the jurors selected from only a designated portion of the county, which may not be less than the corporate limits of the county seat. If, in the selection of the additional jurors, a juror is drawn who is a resident of an area outside the area designated by the court order, the juror's name or number must be returned to the jury box or reinstated on the computer database and a new juror drawn.

(3) When the required number of names have been selected, the judge may order the prospective jurors notified by telephone or mail by the jury commissioner.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 110, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1512; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 313, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 200, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 162, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 241, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Residence, 3-15-101, 3-15-104, 3-15-302, 3-15-402.
Drawing additional jurors, 25-7-206; 25-7-304.
Selection of jury in commitment hearing, 53-21-125.

3-15-507. Clerk to call list of jurors summoned. On the day that trial jurors have been summoned to appear, the clerk shall call the names of those summoned and not excused.

History: En. Sec. 330, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6368, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 35, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 8922, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 246; re-en. Sec. 8922, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1805; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 51, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 379, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 241, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Costs of calling jurors — civil trial, 3-15-203.
Failure of juror to attend trial, 3-15-321.
Calling jurors to report, 46-17-202.

3-15-508. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 200, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 6369A, Rev. C. 1907 by Sec. 9, Ch. 35, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 8924, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8924, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1807.

3-15-509. Manner of impaneling. (1) Whenever a civil action is called by the court for trial and a jury is required, the trial jury shall be impaneled as prescribed in Title 25, chapter 7, part 2, and Rule 47, M.R.Civ.P.

(2) When the action is a criminal one, the jury shall be impaneled as prescribed in Title 46.

History: En. Sec. 331, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6369, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8923, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 247; re-en. Sec. 8923, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1806.

Cross-References

Impaneling, 25-7-201.

Part 6
Grand Juries

3-15-601. When and how drawn and summoned. (1) Whenever in the opinion of the district court judge a grand jury is necessary, the judge shall make an order directing a grand jury to be drawn and summoned to attend before the court. The order must specify the number of jurors to be drawn, which may not be less than 15 or more than 20.

(2) The jurors must be drawn from the jury box or the computer database provided for in 3-15-404. If jurors are selected from the computer database, it must be through a computerized random selection process that the judges of the district court of the county have approved in writing as the requirements for the drawing of grand juries. A copy of the latest jury list and a description of the approved computer process employed in the selection must be kept in the office of the clerk of court and must be available for public inspection during normal business hours.

(3) The list of names must be certified and the jurors summoned in the same manner as for trial jurors. The names or numbers of any persons drawn who are not impaneled on the grand jury must be returned to the jury box or reinstated on the computer database.

History: En. Sec. 320, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6364, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8918, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 241; re-en. Sec. 8918, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 3, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1801; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 162, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 210, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Residence, 3-15-101, 3-15-103, 3-15-104, 3-15-302.

3-15-602. Who constitutes jury. (1) When 11 of the persons summoned as grand jurors who are competent and not excused are present, they constitute the grand jury.

(2) When more than 11 are present, the jury commissioner shall write their names on separate ballots and place the ballots in black capsules. The capsules must be deposited in a box large enough to hold all of the capsules without crowding. The box must be arranged so that the jury commissioner drawing the capsules from the box is unable to see the capsule that the commissioner is about to draw. The jury commissioner shall draw 11 capsules. The persons whose names are on the ballots so drawn shall constitute the grand jury.

(3) When less than 11 are present, the court shall order a sufficient number to be immediately drawn as provided in 3-15-601(2) and summoned to attend the court.

History: En. Sec. 321, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6365, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 35, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 8919, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 242; re-en. Sec. 8919, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 3, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1802; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 162, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 211, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

3-15-603. Manner of impaneling. After the jurors have been selected, the grand jury shall be impaneled as prescribed in 46-11-301 through 46-11-303.

History: En. Sec. 322, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6366, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8920, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 243; re-en. Sec. 8920, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1803.

3-15-604. Drawing and summoning in multijudge districts. In districts where there are two or more judges, each judge may order a grand jury to be drawn and summoned to attend the session or term over which that judge presides, as provided in this part, but more than one grand jury may not be in attendance upon any district court at the same time.

History: En. Sec. 323, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6367, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8921, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8921, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1804; amd. Sec. 212, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Part 7

Juries in Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

Part Cross-References

Costs of calling jurors — civil trial, 3-15-203.
Failure of juror to attend trial, 3-15-321.
Calling jurors to report, 46-17-202.

3-15-701. When and by whom jurors summoned. When jurors are required in any court of limited jurisdiction, they:

(1) must, upon the order of the judge, be summoned by a sheriff, constable, marshal, or police officer of the jurisdiction; or

(2) may be summoned by the judge of the court of limited jurisdiction or by the clerk of that court.

History: En. Sec. 290, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6359, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8913, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 230; re-en. Sec. 8913, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1601; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 466, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 213, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Summoning by Sheriff, 3-15-801, 25-7-206.
Summoning by Constable, 3-15-801.

3-15-702. How to be summoned. Such jurors must be summoned from the persons competent to serve as jurors, residents of the county, city, or town in which such court has jurisdiction, by notifying them orally or by mail that they are summoned and of the time and place at which their attendance is required.

History: En. Sec. 291, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6360, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8914, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 231; re-en. Sec. 8914, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 491, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1602; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 351, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Residence, 3-15-101, 3-15-104, 3-15-302.
Summoning by police, 3-15-801.

3-15-703. Officer's return. The officer summoning the jurors shall, at the time fixed in the order for their appearance, return the order to the court with a list of the persons summoned endorsed thereon.

History: En. Sec. 292, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6361, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8915, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 232; re-en. Sec. 8915, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1603.

3-15-704. Forming jury. At the time appointed for a jury trial in a justice's or city court or any other court of limited jurisdiction, the list of jurors summoned must be called. The jurors summoned shall be 12 in number or double the number agreed upon by the parties before the trial. The names of those attending and not excused must be written upon separate slips of paper, which slips must be folded so as to conceal the names, and placed in a box from which the trial jury must be drawn.

History: En. Sec. 340, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6370, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8925, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 250; re-en. Sec. 8925, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1808; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 21, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 466, L. 1979.

3-15-705. Manner of impaneling. The jury must be impaneled as provided in:

(1) Title 46, if the action is a criminal one;

(2) Title 25, chapter 7, part 2, and Rule 18B, Montana Justice and City Court Rules of Civil Procedure, if the action is a civil one.

History: En. Sec. 341, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6371, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8926, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 251; re-en. Sec. 8926, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 344, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1809; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 16, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Impaneling, 3-15-509, 25-7-201.

Part 8
Juries of Inquest

3-15-801. Summoning juries. Juries of inquest must be summoned by the officer before whom the proceedings in which they are to sit are to be held or by a sheriff, constable, or police officer from the residents of the county who are competent to serve as jurors by notifying them orally that they are summoned and of the time and place at which their attendance is required.

History: En. Sec. 300, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6362, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8916, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 235; re-en. Sec. 8916, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1604; amd. Sec. 214, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Residence, 3-15-101, 3-15-104, 3-15-105, 3-15-302.
Summoning by Sheriff, 3-15-701, 3-15-703, 25-7-206.
Summoning by Constable, 3-15-701, 3-15-703.

3-15-802. Manner of impaneling. The manner of impaneling juries of inquest is prescribed in the provisions of the different statutes relating to such inquests.

History: En. Sec. 350, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6372, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8927, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 254; re-en. Sec. 8927, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1810.

Cross-References

Impaneling, 3-15-509, 25-7-201.

CHAPTERS 16 THROUGH 19
RESERVED

CHAPTER 20
ASBESTOS CLAIMS COURT

Part 1 — General Provisions

3-20-101. Definition.
3-20-102. Asbestos claims judge.
3-20-103. Asbestos claims court — venue — jury pool.
3-20-104. Operating expenses — asbestos claims administration fund.
3-20-105. Direct appeal to supreme court.

Part 1
General Provisions

3-20-101. Definition. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, "asbestos-related claim" means an action brought for the recovery of monetary damages for personal injury, wrongful death, loss or consortium, or other injury arising out of an asbestos-related disease that is alleged to result from the mining of vermiculite, the processing of vermiculite, or the transfer, storage, installation, or removal of a product containing vermiculite.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 2001.

3-20-102. Asbestos claims judge. (1) A civil action involving an asbestos-related claim may be tried by a judge pro tempore or special master, who must be a member of the bar of the state, agreed upon in writing by the parties litigant or their attorneys of record, appointed by the supreme court as provided in 3-5-115, and sworn to try the cause before entering upon the duties in trying the cause. Upon appointment, the individual must be designated as the asbestos claims judge. The right to a jury trial is not waived by the stipulation to and appointment of the asbestos claims judge.

(2) The asbestos claims judge has the authority and power of an elected district court judge in the civil action involving an asbestos-related claim. All proceedings before the asbestos claims judge must be conducted in accordance with the rules of evidence and procedure governing district courts.

(3) Any order, judgment, or decree made or rendered in an asbestos-related civil case by the asbestos claims judge has the same force and effect as if made or rendered by the district court with the regular judge presiding.

(4) A party stipulating to have an asbestos-related claim heard by the asbestos claims judge may not file a motion for substitution of the judge pursuant to 3-1-804.

(5) All filings relating to an asbestos-related claim must be filed with the clerk of court in the judicial district in which the claim arose. The parties shall provide a copy of each filing to the asbestos claims judge.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 473, L. 2001.**

3-20-103. Asbestos claims court — venue — jury pool. (1) The asbestos claims judge may hear an asbestos-related claim in any venue stipulated by the parties as provided in 25-2-202 or in any venue otherwise determined by the asbestos claims judge in accordance with a stipulation of the parties. In stipulating venue, the parties shall take into consideration the availability of courtroom facilities. The asbestos claims court may prepare a list of available courtroom facilities for consideration of the parties.

(2) The pool of prospective jurors for an asbestos-related claim may be drawn from any county in accordance with a stipulation of the parties. The jurors must be drawn, as provided in 3-15-501 and 3-15-503, from the jury lists of the counties comprising the jury pool. The clerk of the district court for the district in which the trial is conducted shall notify the prospective jurors.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 473, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 114, L. 2003.**

3-20-104. Operating expenses — asbestos claims administration fund. The asbestos claims judge may employ the employees that may be required to carry out the duties under this part. All expenditures of the asbestos claims judge, including but not limited to salaries, travel expenses, office rent, office equipment, and supplies, must be paid out of the asbestos claims administration fund. The asbestos claims administration fund is the account in the state treasury in which the funding for the asbestos claims court is deposited.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 473, L. 2001.**

3-20-105. Direct appeal to supreme court. An appeal from a final decision of the asbestos claims judge must be filed directly with the supreme court of Montana in the manner provided by law for appeals from the district court in civil cases.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 473, L. 2001.**

TITLE 4

RESERVED

TITLE 5

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Ch.
1. Congressional, Senatorial, and Representative Districts.
2. Legislature — Composition and Organization.
3. Special Sessions.
4. Bills.
5. Legislative Procedures.
6. Legislative Interns. Repealed.
7. Lobbying.
Chapters 8 through 10 reserved.
11. Legislative Council and Publication of Laws.
12. Legislative Finance and Data Analytics Act.
13. Legislative Audit Act.
14. Administrative Code Committee. Repealed.
15. Legislative Consumer Committee — Consumer Counsel.
16. Environmental Quality Council.
17. Capitol Building and Planning — Restoration. Renumbered and Repealed.
18. Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee. Repealed.
19. Committee on Indian Affairs. Repealed.
20. Educational Committees.
21. Committee on Public Employee Retirement Systems. Repealed.
22. Committee on Children and Families. Repealed.
23. Committee on State Management Systems. Repealed.

CHAPTER 1

CONGRESSIONAL, SENATORIAL, AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS

Part 1 — Districting and Apportionment Commission

5-1-101. Commission to redistrict and reapportion — number of legislators.
5-1-102. Composition of commission.
5-1-103. Vacancy on commission.
5-1-104. Compensation and expenses.
5-1-105. Restriction on commissioners seeking election to legislature.
5-1-106. Legislative services division to provide technical and clerical services.
5-1-107. Assistance of state agencies.
5-1-108. Public hearing on plans.
5-1-109. Submission of plan for legislative redistricting to legislature.
5-1-110. Recommendations of legislature.
5-1-111. Final plan — dissolution of commission.
5-1-112 through 5-1-114 reserved.
5-1-115. Redistricting criteria.
5-1-116. Repealed.

Part 2 — Inmate Data for Redistricting

5-1-201. Definitions.
5-1-202. Electronic record.
5-1-203. Report to state census and economic information center.
5-1-204. Federal facilities.
5-1-205. Redistricting population data.
5-1-206. Adjustment and publication of population data — notification to local governments — limitation on use for distribution of aid.

Chapter Cross-References

Elections, Title 13.

Election records to be kept by Secretary of State, 13-1-204.

Part 1
Districting and Apportionment Commission

Part Cross-References

Districting and reapportionment, Art. V, sec. 14, Mont. Const.

5-1-101. Commission to redistrict and reapportion — number of legislators. (1) In each session preceding each federal population census, a commission of five citizens, none of whom may be public officials, shall be selected to prepare the plans for redistricting and reapportioning the state into legislative and congressional districts.

(2) The plans for redistricting and reapportionment of legislative districts must be based on the number of members in the house of representatives and the senate to be determined in the legislative session before the census.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-108; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 477, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Size of Legislature, Art. V, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Public officers, Title 2, ch. 16.
Composition of Legislature, 5-2-101.
Officers of Senate and House of Representatives, 5-2-221.

5-1-102. Composition of commission. The majority and minority leaders of each house shall each designate one commissioner for the commission provided for in 5-1-101. Within 20 days after their designation, the four commissioners shall select the fifth member, who shall serve as the presiding officer of the commission. If the four members fail to select the fifth member within the time prescribed, a majority of the supreme court shall select the fifth member.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-109; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 52, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 254, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 285, L. 2019.

5-1-103. Vacancy on commission. (1) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the appointing authority of the vacated seat shall designate a successor.

(2) If the appointing authority at the time a vacancy occurs is of a different political party than that of the appointing authority that made the appointment that is vacant, the majority leader or minority leader of the same political party as the appointing authority that made the original appointment of the commissioner whose position is vacated shall designate the successor.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-110; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007.

5-1-104. Compensation and expenses. Commissioners are entitled to the same compensation and expenses as provided to members of the legislature in 5-2-302 while attending commission meetings or carrying out the official duties of the commission.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 21, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-111; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 69, L. 1983.

5-1-105. Restriction on commissioners seeking election to legislature. A member of the commission may not run for election to a legislative seat within 2 years after the districting and apportionment plan in which the commissioner participated becomes effective.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-118; amd. Sec. 215, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-1-106. Legislative services division to provide technical and clerical services. The executive director of the legislative services division, under the direction of the commission, shall provide the technical staff and clerical services that the commission needs to prepare its districting and apportionment plans.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-112; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 477, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Legislative Services Division, 5-11-111, 5-11-112.

5-1-107. Assistance of state agencies. Upon request state agencies shall cooperate with the commission and furnish technical assistance and consulting personnel.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-113.

5-1-108. Public hearing on plans. (1) Before the commission files its final congressional redistricting plan with the secretary of state, the commission shall hold at least one public hearing on it.

(2) Before the commission submits its legislative redistricting plan to the legislature, it shall hold at least one public hearing on the plan at the state capitol.

(3) The commission may hold other hearings as it deems necessary.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-114; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 477, L. 1983.

5-1-109. Submission of plan for legislative redistricting to legislature. The commission shall submit its legislative redistricting plan to the legislature by the 10th legislative day of the first regular session after its appointment or after the census figures are available.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-115; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 477, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Legislative sessions, 5-2-103.

5-1-110. Recommendations of legislature. Within 30 days after the commission submits its legislative redistricting plan to the legislature, the legislature shall return the plan to the commission with its recommendations.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-116; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 477, L. 1983.

5-1-111. Final plan — dissolution of commission. (1) Within 90 days after the official final decennial census figures are available, the commission shall file its final plan for congressional districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(2) Within 30 days after receiving the legislative redistricting plan and the legislature's recommendations, the commission shall file its final legislative redistricting plan with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(3) Upon filing both plans, the commission shall be dissolved.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-117; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 477, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 3, L. 2003.

5-1-112 through 5-1-114 reserved.

5-1-115. Redistricting criteria. (1) Subject to federal law, legislative and congressional districts must be established on the basis of population.

(2) In the development of legislative districts, a plan is subject to the Voting Rights Act and must comply with the following criteria, in order of importance:

(a) The districts must be as equal as practicable, meaning to the greatest extent possible, within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation from the ideal population of a district as calculated from information provided by the federal decennial census. The relative deviation may be exceeded only when necessary to keep political subdivisions intact or to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

(b) District boundaries must coincide with the boundaries of political subdivisions of the state to the greatest extent possible. The number of counties and cities divided among more than one district must be as small as possible. When there is a choice between dividing local political subdivisions, the more populous subdivisions must be divided before the less populous, unless the boundary is drawn along a county line that passes through a city.

(c) The districts must be contiguous, meaning that the district must be in one piece. Areas that meet only at points of adjoining corners or areas separated by geographical boundaries or artificial barriers that prevent transportation within a district may not be considered contiguous.

(d) The districts must be compact, meaning that the compactness of a district is greatest when the length of the district and the width of a district are equal. A district may not have an average length greater than three times the average width unless necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

(3) A district may not be drawn for the purposes of favoring a political party or an incumbent legislator or member of congress. The following data or information may not be considered in the development of a plan:

(a) addresses of incumbent legislators or members of congress;

(b) political affiliations of registered voters;

(c) partisan political voter lists; or

(d) previous election results, unless required as a remedy by a court.

(4) In the development of congressional districts and under the authority granted to the legislature by Article I, section 4, of the United States constitution, a congressional districting plan is subject to the Voting Rights Act and must comply with the following criteria, in order of importance:

(a) The districts must be as equal as practicable.

(b) District boundaries must coincide with the boundaries of political subdivisions of the state to the greatest extent possible. The number of counties and cities divided among more than one district must be as small as possible. When there is a choice between dividing local political subdivisions, the more populous subdivisions must be divided before the less populous, unless the boundary is drawn along a county line that passes through a city.

(c) The districts must be contiguous, meaning that a district must be in one piece. Areas that meet only at points of adjoining corners or areas separated by geographical boundaries or artificial barriers that prevent transportation within a district may not be considered contiguous.

(d) The districts must be compact, meaning that the compactness of a district is greatest when the length of the district and the width of a district are equal. A district may not have an average length greater than three times the average width unless necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 2003; En. Sec. 1, Ch. 546, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 531, L. 2021.

5-1-116. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 357, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 2003.

Part 2
Inmate Data for Redistricting

Part Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 10, Ch. 233, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

Codification Change: Section 8, Ch. 233, L. 2023, provided that this part was to be codified as an integral part of Title 53, chapter 30. The Code Commissioner has codified this part in Title 5, chapter 1, to more closely reflect the subject matter.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 233, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to local election districts based on population whose boundaries are created or altered on or after the date when the redistricting data for the 2030 census is available."

5-1-201. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Center" means the state census and economic information center established in 90-1-109.

(2) "Department" means the department of corrections established in 2-15-2301.

(3) "Federal correctional facility" means a prison or correctional facility owned by or contracting with the United States government to incarcerate individuals convicted of a criminal offense.

(4) "Last known address" means an individual's last known complete street or physical address prior to the individual's incarceration. An individual's last known address is presumed to be outside of the state prison or federal correctional facility in which the individual is held.

(5) "Local government district" means a district based on population that is maintained by a local government primarily for election purposes and that must be substantially equal in population under the 14th amendment to the United States constitution.

(6) "State prison" means a facility listed in 53-30-101(1), (2), or (4).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 2023.

5-1-202. Electronic record. (1) Within 6 months of July 1, 2023, the department shall collect and maintain an electronic record of the last known address and other demographic data for an individual entering the department's custody. The record must include but is not limited to:

(a) the individual's last known address;

(b) the individual's race, whether the person is an American Indian or an Alaska Native, and whether the person is of Hispanic or Latino origin; and

(c) if the individual is 18 years of age or older.

(2) To the extent possible, the department shall collect and maintain the information required in subsection (1) for individuals in state prisons who entered the department's custody prior to July 1, 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 233, L. 2023.

5-1-203. Report to state census and economic information center. (1) By May 1 of each year in which the federal decennial census is taken and in which the United States census bureau allocates incarcerated individuals as residents of a state prison, the department shall deliver to the center:

(a) a unique identifier not including the name or offender identification number for each incarcerated individual subject to the jurisdiction of the department on the date for which the decennial census reports population numbers;

(b) the street address of the prison in which the individual was incarcerated at the time of the census;

(c) the last known address of the individual prior to incarceration;

(d) the individual's race, whether the individual is an American Indian or an Alaska Native, whether the individual is of Hispanic or Latino origin, and if the person is 18 years of age or older; and

(e) other information the center may request.

(2) The department shall provide the information in subsection (1) in a format specified by the center.

(3) The information provided as required in subsection (1) is private. It may not:

(a) include the incarcerated individual's name or other information that may allow the individual to be identified except by the department; or

(b) be disclosed by the department or the center except as redistricting data aggregated by census block for the purposes described in 5-1-205.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 233, L. 2023.

5-1-204. Federal facilities. The center shall request from each federal correctional facility located in Montana a report that includes the information listed in 5-1-203(1).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 233, L. 2023.

5-1-205. Redistricting population data. (1) The center shall prepare redistricting population data that reflects an incarcerated individual at the individual's last known address pursuant to 5-1-206.

(2) The districting and apportionment commission shall use the data to form congressional, state house, or state senate districts.

(3) A local government shall use the data to form local government districts that are based on population. An incarcerated individual whose address prior to incarceration is unknown, as determined pursuant to 5-1-206, may not be included in the calculation used to determine the ideal population of a local government district.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 233, L. 2023.

5-1-206. Adjustment and publication of population data — notification to local governments — limitation on use for distribution of aid. (1) For each individual included in a report received under 5-1-203 or 5-1-204, the center shall determine the geographic units for which population counts are reported in the federal decennial census that contain the state prison or federal correctional facility in which the individual is or was incarcerated and the individual's last known address as listed in the report provided pursuant to 5-1-203 or 5-1-204.

(2) If the individual's last known address is in Montana, the center shall:

(a) remove the individual from any population counts for the geographic units that include the state prison unless that geographic unit also contains the individual's last known address; and

(b) ensure that any population counts reported by the center reflect the individual's last known address.

(3) If the individual's last known address is not reported or is not in Montana or if an individual reported in the federal decennial census resides in a federal correctional facility, the center shall remove the individual from any population counts for the geographic units that include the state prison or federal correctional facility at which the individual was incarcerated

and allocate the individual to a state unit not tied to a specific geography as other state residents with unknown state addresses are allocated, including but not limited to military and federal government personnel stationed overseas.

(4) The center shall prepare and publish the data required under this section no later than 30 days from the date that the federal decennial data is published for Montana.

(5) The center shall notify local governments that 5-1-205 requires local governments to use the data prepared as required in this part.

(6) The data prepared by the center may not be used to calculate population to determine the distribution of state or federal aid.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 233, L. 2023.**

CHAPTER 2
LEGISLATURE — COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

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Chapter Cross-References

Separation of powers, Art. III, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Continuity of government, Art. III, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Elections, Art. IV, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Immunity from suit for legislative acts and omissions, Art. V. sec. 8, Mont. Const.; 2-9-111.
Code of ethics, Art. XIII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Standards of conduct, Title 2, ch. 2.
Short-term worker — leave time, 2-18-601.
Elections, Title 13.
Filing fees, 13-10-202.
Bribing members of political gatherings, 13-35-220.
Limitations on campaign contributions, 13-37-216 and 13-37-217.
Surplus campaign funds, 13-37-240.

Part 1
General

Part Cross-References
Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212.
Eligibility for public office, Art. IV, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Power and structure of Legislature, Art. V, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Size of Legislature, Art. V, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Election and terms of legislators, Art. V, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Qualifications of legislators, Art. V, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Sessions of Legislature, Art. V, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Immunity from suit for legislative acts or omissions, Art. V, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; 2-9-111.
Disqualification of legislator, Art. V, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Standards of conduct, Title 2, ch. 2.
Absence of officer from state — consent of Legislature, 2-16-112.

5-2-101. Composition of legislature. The legislature consists of senators and representatives elected from the several senatorial and representative districts of the state in the number specified by law.

History: En. Sec. 150, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 50, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 51, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 51, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-201.

Cross-References
Size of Legislature, Art. V, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Districting and Apportionment Commission, Art. V. sec. 14, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 1, part 1.
Redistricting and reapportionment plans — number of legislators, 5-1-101.

5-2-102. Term of office. The term of office of a senator is 4 years or until a successor is elected and qualified, and the term of office of a representative is 2 years or until a successor is elected and qualified. The term of service begins on the first Monday of January following the election. If a senator is elected to fill a vacancy, the term of service begins on the day after the election.

History: En. Sec. 151, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 51, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 52, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 226; re-en. Sec. 52, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 198, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-202; amd. Sec. 216, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References
Election and terms, Art. V, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Elections to fill vacancies in Senate, 5-2-406.
Elections, Title 13.

5-2-103. Time and place of meeting. Each regular session of the legislature shall be convened at the seat of government at 12 noon on the first Monday of January of each odd-numbered year or, if January 1 is a Monday, on the first Wednesday. The legislature shall meet at other times when convened by the governor or by the written request of a majority of the legislators or, when the legislature is in session, by a recorded vote of a majority of the legislators.

History: En. Sec. 160, Pol C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 55, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 55, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 235; re-en. Sec. 55, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-205.

Cross-References
Sessions, Art. V, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Special sessions, Title 5, ch. 3.
Call of special session by written request, 5-3-102.

5-2-104. Appointment to or candidacy for other offices. (1) A member of the legislature may not, during the term for which the member was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the state. A member of the legislature may become a candidate for public office during the legislator's term.

(2) A member of the legislature who is elected to another public office shall resign from the legislature prior to assuming the office to which the member is newly elected.

History: **En. 43-202.2 and 43-202.3 by Secs. 2, 3, Ch. 91, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-202.2, 43-202.3; amd. Sec. 217, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

No appointment of legislator to civil office, Art. V, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

Public officers, Title 2, ch. 16.

5-2-105. Facsimile signatures authorized. (1) As used in this section, "facsimile signature" means a reproduction of the manual signature of a legislator by engraving, imprinting, stamping, facsimile transmission, or other means.

(2) On state documents requiring a signature, a legislator may use a facsimile signature in lieu of a manual signature. Before using a facsimile signature, the legislator shall file a copy of the legislator's manual or facsimile signature, certified by the legislator under oath, with the presiding officer of the house of which the legislator is a member.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 685, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 218, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

5-2-106. Legislative standing to institute or defend lawsuit — compelling enforcement of legislative enactments. (1) The legislature has standing to sue or defend a lawsuit on behalf of the legislature in the courts of this state when:

(a) a challenge to the constitutionality of legislation enacted by the legislature is at issue in a lawsuit; or

(b) (i) legislation enacted is not being implemented by an entity with the duty to execute the law, thereby impeding compliance with legislation, session law, or a statute;

(ii) the alleged injury to the legislature due to the failure to implement a statute is distinguishable from the injury to members of the public even if they suffer an injury; and

(iii) the alleged injury to the legislature would effectively be immunized from review if the legislature did not have standing.

(2) (a) Before the legislature may pursue the remedy provided in subsection (1)(b), a demand letter provided for in subsection (2)(b) must be provided to the entity with the duty to execute or implement the law. If the public officer of the entity fails to respond in writing within 30 days of receipt of the letter by indicating that the entity will address the concerns in the letter immediately, the legislature may provide consent through the procedure in subsection (3) to initiate a lawsuit to ensure compliance with a statutory duty through a petition for mandamus. The provisions of Title 27 related to mandamus and related case law do not apply to this section. To prevail, the legislature is not required to prove that it or other parties have no alternative adequate remedy to obtain compliance with statutory duties.

(b) The demand letter provided for in subsection (2)(a) must:

(i) be in writing and reference the legislation, session law, or statute that is not being implemented by the entity;

(ii) provide any relevant information for the entity to consider regarding the alleged failure to comply with the law;

(iii) be signed by one or more sitting legislators; and

(iv) provide notice that it is issued pursuant to the authority of this section.

(3) Legislative consent to initiate an action under this section may be obtained by:

(a) a majority vote in each house on a joint resolution during a regular or special session of the legislature; or

(b) a majority vote in each house through a poll of the legislature as provided for under subsection (4) when the legislature is not in session.

(4) (a) When the legislature is not in session, if 20 or more legislators request a poll in writing pursuant to subsection (3)(b), the secretary of state shall poll the members of the legislature to determine if a majority of the members of the house of representatives and a majority of the members of the senate are in favor of a legislative declaration to pursue an action under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).

(b) The request must:

(i) state the conditions warranting the poll;

(ii) if applicable, contain the demand letter sent to the entity provided for in subsection (2) and any written response from the entity; and

(iii) contain a legislative declaration that addresses the action sought or issue to be addressed and the type of action to be pursued in subsection (1).

(c) Within 3 calendar days after receiving a request, the secretary of state shall send a ballot to all legislators by using any reasonable and reliable means, including electronic delivery, that contains:

(i) the legislative declaration subject to the vote; and

(ii) the date by which legislators shall return the ballot, which may not be more than 10 calendar days after the date the ballots are sent.

(d) A legislator may cast and return a vote by delivering the ballot in person, by mailing, or by sending the ballot by facsimile transmission or electronic mail to the office of the secretary of state. A legislator may not change the legislator's vote after the ballot is received by the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall tally the votes within 1 working day after the date for return of the votes. If a majority of the members of each house vote to approve the declaration, the declaration that was sent with the ballot has the force and effect authorizing the action requested in the declaration. A ballot that is not returned by the deadline established by the secretary of state is considered a vote against the declaration.

(5) Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of the attorney general to represent the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 204, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 20, 2023.

Applicability: Section 5, Ch. 204, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to proceedings initiated on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective April 20, 2023.

5-2-107. Findings of purpose — legislator intervention in legal challenges authorized. (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) proper interpretation and administration of the constitution and legislative enactments and referendums of the state are matters of great public interest and significant importance;

(b) an individual legislator in the legislator's capacity as the primary sponsor of legislation at issue who voted for passage and approval of the legislation has a plain, direct, and adequate interest in maintaining the effectiveness of the legislator's vote and has a personal stake in ensuring proper interpretation and administration of the constitution and legislative enactments and referendums that is distinguishable from that of the public generally; and

(c) the officers of the legislature have a plain, direct, and adequate interest in ensuring proper interpretation and administration of legislative enactments.

(2) The officers of the legislature and a legislator in the legislator's capacity as the primary sponsor of legislation at issue who voted for passage and approval of the legislation may intervene as of right, individually or jointly, in declaratory judgment actions involving alleged constitutional or statutory violations of state law.

(3) Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of the attorney general to represent the state of Montana.

(4) The participation of an officer of the legislature in any action, state or federal, as a party or otherwise, does not constitute a waiver of legislative immunity or legislative privilege of any individual legislator, officer of the legislature, or legislative staff.

(5) Subject to available appropriation authority, an officer of the legislature may use funding that is approved by the legislative council or funding that is under the direction and control of the officer of the legislature to pay attorney fees and costs associated with intervention under subsection (2). A primary sponsor is responsible for paying attorney fees and costs associated with intervention under subsection (2) unless funding is approved by the legislative council.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "officer of the legislature" means the speaker of the house and the president of the senate.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 667, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 667, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 19, 2023.

Applicability: Section 4, Ch. 667, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to proceedings initiated after [the effective date of this act]." Effective May 19, 2023.

Part 2
Organization

Part Cross-References

Organization and procedure of Legislature, Art. V, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

5-2-201. Presession caucus. Not later than December 1 of each year following an election when members of the legislature are elected, the parties of each house of the legislature shall hold a presession caucus for holdover senators, senators-elect, and representatives-elect. The purpose of the caucus of each party of each house is to nominate officers and establish the basis for additional presession activity, including hiring staff and appointing committees. The legislative council shall designate the time for holding the presession caucuses.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 392, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-218(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 385, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Canvassing, Title 13, ch. 15.

5-2-202. Presession activity. (1) Members of the legislature nominated to leadership positions during the presession caucus provided for in 5-2-201 and members nominated or appointed to the committee on committees and rules committees may meet and perform necessary organizational tasks prior to the regular session or a special session, including but not limited to appointing committees, hiring staff, and assigning space and seating.

(2) Members of the house appropriations committee and of the senate finance and claims committee named prior to the regular session may begin reviewing requests for appropriations immediately or prior to a special session and may visit state agencies and institutions to discuss requests.

(3) Members of the house and senate taxation committees named prior to the regular session may begin reviewing revenue estimates immediately or prior to a special session.

History: En. 43-218.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-218.1(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 551, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 57, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 250, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 168, L. 2019.

5-2-203. Compensation and expenses — definition. (1) Members of the legislature attending the presession caucus, provided for in 5-2-201, and legislative orientation and training are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302. The legislative services division shall place the members on the payroll roster, provided for in 2-18-404, in order to pay the compensation and expenses.

(2) While engaged in presession business, members nominated to serve as officers of the legislature and members of the committees named in 5-2-202 are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "holdover senator" means a senator who was not required to seek election at the general election held immediately prior to the presession caucus; and

(b) "member" means a holdover senator, senator-elect, or representative-elect who is eligible to serve in the ensuing legislative session.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 392, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1977; Sec. 43-218, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 43-218.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 103, L. 1977; Sec. 43-218.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 43-218(2), 43-218.1(2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 551, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 412, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 57, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 2005.

5-2-204. Legislative constituent services allowance, stipend, and reimbursement. (1) Each legislator is entitled to an allowance or stipend of $3,000 in a biennium for providing constituent services and authorized activities related to serving in the legislature. A legislator shall elect between receiving an allowance or a stipend before receiving a payment under either method. If a legislator elects to receive an allowance, the legislator shall apply for reimbursement to the legislative services division by submitting written documentation. The allowance amount may be used for the following authorized activities that are not otherwise reimbursed:

(a) mileage and lodging at rates provided for in 2-18-501 and 2-18-503 for authorized activities;

(b) meals at rates provided for in 2-18-501 and 2-18-502 when a legislator is in a travel status for authorized activities;

(c) communication and information technology expenses, including internet charges, computer hardware and software, postage for authorized activities, and preparation, printing, and postage costs related to educational material as provided in subsection (7); and

(d) education-related expenses related to attending meetings for interstate and intrastate organizations that provide opportunities for legislators to participate in policy and civic educational activities. Education-related expenses under this subsection (1)(d) include transportation, meals, and lodging at rates provided for in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) and for registration costs.

(2) The following activities are prohibited from reimbursement and may not be paid for from the stipend:

(a) except as provided in subsection (7), expenses related to election communications or electioneering communications, as those terms are defined in 13-1-101;

(b) contributions, expenditures, or other expenses related to participation in a political committee, as the terms "contribution", "expenditure", and "political committee" are defined in 13-1-101;

(c) costs for all or any portion of an event, meeting, fundraiser, or gathering at which contributions, as defined in 13-1-101, will be solicited or received by any person;

(d) any direct travel, lodging, meals, entertainment, or other expenses related to the sponsorship of an event, meeting, fundraiser, or gathering at which contributions, as defined in 13-1-110, will be solicited or received by any person;

(e) any direct or indirect expenditure to support or oppose a candidate or ballot issue; and

(f) entertainment.

(3) Subject to subsections (5) and (6), legislators are allowed an additional reimbursement of up to the amount provided for in subsection (4) in a biennium for otherwise unreimbursed expenses related to the legislator's expenses for authorized activities provided in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b).

(4) The amount authorized under subsection (3) is:

(a) $1,000 if the legislator's district is at least 100 square miles but less than 1,000 square miles;

(b) $2,000 if the legislator's district is at least 1,000 square miles but less than 5,000 square miles;

(c) $3,000 if the legislator's district is at least 5,000 square miles but less than 7,500 square miles; or

(d) $4,000 if the legislator's district is 7,500 square miles or more.

(5) For expenses authorized under subsection (3), a legislator shall apply for reimbursement to the legislative services division by submitting written documentation that satisfies applicable requirements of Title 2, chapter 18, part 5.

(6) Legislators may not be reimbursed for expenses paid from a constituent services account provided for in 13-37-402.

(7) Authorized activities include the preparation, printing, and postage costs related to distribution of educational material to constituents. The distribution of educational material in whole or in part to constituents in a legislator's district based on the available funding provided in this section is not considered election communications or electioneering communications, as those terms are defined in 13-1-101, if the education material does not encourage the support of or opposition to a candidate or ballot issue.

(8) If a legislator resigns during a legislator's term, any amount unexpended must remain with the legislative services division. A legislator appointed to fill a vacancy during a term may receive an amount prorated over the 24-month term.

(9) Any violation of this section is subject to the provisions in 2-2-135 and is subject to enforcement by the ethics committee in the appropriate chamber.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 30, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 30, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 2, 2023.

Cross-References

Compensation and expenses for members while in session, 5-2-301.

Compensation and expenses when legislature not in session, 5-2-302.

5-2-205. Authority for standing committees to meet during interim. (1) Except as provided in 5-2-202, 5-12-501 through 5-12-504, and subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a standing committee of the legislature, as provided for in legislative rules, may not meet during the interim between regular legislative sessions.

(2) Upon approval of the president of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives, a standing committee may meet before a special session, as provided in 5-3-101, or during a special session.

(3) An ethics committee provided for in 2-2-135 may meet at any time during the session or the interim.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 331, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 525, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 30, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 30, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 2, 2023.

Termination Provision Repealed: Section 3, Ch. 494, L. 2023, repealed sec. 12, Ch. 525, L. 2021, which terminated the 2021 amendment to this section December 31, 2025. Effective May 1, 2023.

5-2-206 through 5-2-210 reserved.

5-2-211. Certified rosters. The secretary of state shall prepare certified rosters from the official election records on file in the secretary of state's office for use in the organization of the senate and house of representatives.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 43-206.1; amd. Sec. 219, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

5-2-212. Organization of senate. At 12 noon on the day appointed for the meeting of any regular session of the legislature, the senior member present must take the chair, call the senators and senators-elect to order, call over the senators from the certified roster prepared by the secretary of state, and then, from the certified roster prepared by the secretary of state, call over the senatorial districts and counties, in their order, from which members have been elected at the preceding election. After the same are called the members-elect must take the constitutional oath of office and assume their seats. The senate may thereupon, if a quorum is present, proceed to elect its officers.

History: **En. H.B. No. 69, p. 103, L. 1897; re-en. Sec. 163, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 57, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 57, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 238; re-en. Sec. 57, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 43-207; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 575, L. 1981.**

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212.

5-2-213. Organization of house of representatives. At the time specified in 5-2-212, the secretary of state or, in case of the secretary of state's absence or inability, the senior member-elect present shall take the chair, call the members-elect of the house of representatives to order, and then, from the certified roster prepared by the secretary of state, call over the roll of counties and districts. After the names are called, the members-elect shall take the constitutional oath of office and assume their seats. The house of representatives may at that time, if a quorum is present, proceed to elect its officers.

History: **En. Sec. 164, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 58, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 58, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 239; re-en. Sec. 58, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 43-208; amd. Sec. 220, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212.

5-2-214. Oath to be entered on journals. An entry of the oath taken by the members of the legislature must be made on the journals of the proper houses, respectively.

History: **En. Sec. 165, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 59, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 59, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 240; re-en. Sec. 59, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-209.**

Cross-References

Oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3, Mont. Const.; 2-16-211; 2-16-212.

5-2-215. Election of officers. In all elections of officers of either branch of the legislature, a majority of all the votes given is necessary to a choice.

History: **En. Sec. 8, p. 90, L. 1885; re-en. Sec. 1332, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 166, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 60, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 60, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 60, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-210.**

5-2-216. Tie vote. If there is a tie vote for the purposes of organizing the senate or the house of representatives then, for the purposes of organization, the political party's candidate for president of the senate or speaker of the house then having a member of that candidate's party as the governor of Montana is elected.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-210.1; amd. Sec. 221, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-2-217 through 5-2-220 reserved.

5-2-221. Officers and employees of the senate and house of representatives. (1) The officers of the senate include a president, a president pro tempore, a majority leader, a minority leader, a majority whip, and a minority whip.

(2) The officers of the house of representatives include a speaker, a speaker pro tempore, a majority leader, a minority leader, a majority whip, and a minority whip.

(3) The president and president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker and speaker pro tempore of the house must be elected by the house of which they are a member.

(4) The majority leader, minority leader, majority whip, and minority whip of the senate and house must be elected by their respective caucuses.

(5) A secretary of the senate, sergeant at arms, and chaplain must be appointed by the president subject to confirmation by the senate, and a chief clerk of the house, sergeant at arms, and chaplain must be appointed by the speaker subject to confirmation by the house.

History: En. 43-214.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-214.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007.

Cross-References

Gubernatorial succession, 2-16-511 through 2-16-514.
Governor and Lieutenant Governor incapacitated, 2-16-515.
Discrimination in hiring legislative leadership staff, 49-2-308.

5-2-222. Powers and duties of officers. The president and president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker and speaker pro tempore of the house of representatives may administer the oath of office to any senator or representative and to the officers and employees of their respective bodies. The officers and employees must perform such duties as are required by the rules or orders of the respective bodies which elect them.

History: En. Secs. 4 and 5, p. 170, L. 1891; re-en. Sec. 200, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 67, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 65, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 252; re-en. Sec. 65, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-301(part).

Part 3
Compensation and Expenses of Members and Officers

Part Cross-References

Compensation of legislators, Art. V, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Exemption of elected officials from state employee classification, 2-18-103.
Travel, meals, and lodging, Title 2, ch. 18, part 5.
Group insurance for public officers, 2-18-702.
State group insurance, Title 2, ch. 18, part 8.
Social Security, Title 19, ch. 1.
Public employees' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 3.
Deferred compensation, Title 19, ch. 50.

5-2-301. Compensation and expenses for members while in session. (1) Legislators are entitled to a salary commensurate to that of the daily rate for an employee earning $10.33 an hour when the regular session of the legislature in which they serve is convened under 5-2-103 for those days during which the legislature is in session. The hourly rate must be adjusted by any statutorily required pay increase. The president of the senate and the speaker of the house must receive an additional $5 a day in salary for those days during which the legislature is in session.

(2) Legislators may serve for no salary.

(3) Legislators are entitled to a daily allowance, 7 days a week, during a legislative session, as reimbursement for lodging, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and incidental expenses incurred in attending a session. The amount of the daily allowance is equal to the amount an employee of the executive branch of the federal government is generally entitled to receive as per diem for lodging, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and incidental expenses while away from home in the city of

Helena but serving in the United States. Expense payments must stop when the legislature recesses for more than 3 days and resume when the legislature reconvenes.

(4) Legislators are entitled to a mileage allowance as provided in 2-18-503 for each mile of travel to the place of the holding of the session and to return to their place of residence at the conclusion of the session.

(5) In addition to the mileage allowance provided for in subsection (4), legislators, on submittal of an appropriate claim for mileage reimbursement to the legislative services division, are entitled to:

(a) three additional round trips to their place of residence during each regular session; and

(b) additional round trips as authorized by the legislature during special session.

(6) Legislators are not entitled to any additional mileage allowance under subsection (4) for a special session if it is convened within 7 days of a regular session.

(7) The department of administration shall work with the legislative services division to offer options to legislators to receive their session salary provided for in subsection (1) over the 2-year legislative term or a portion of the term. The options must be offered to all legislators in order to assist legislators to manage their income over the term. The per diem allowance and mileage as provided in this section, salary during a special session as provided in 5-3-101, and the salary during the interim as provided for in 5-2-302 may not be affected.

History: **En. Sec. 220, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 77, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 74, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 266; re-en. Sec. 74, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 392, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-310; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 650, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 605, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 693, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 9, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 1, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 720, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 455, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 417, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 558, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 553, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 361, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Coordination: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 24, 2023.

The amendment to this section made by sec. 3, Ch. 603, L. 2023, was rendered void by sec. 10, Ch. 603, L. 2023, a coordination section.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 3, Ch. 86, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to reimbursements for daily allowances made on or after January 2, 2023."

Cross-References

Regular session — time and place of meeting, 5-2-103.

Legislative constituent services allowance, stipend, and reimbursement, 5-2-204.

5-2-302. Compensation and expenses when legislature not in session. When the legislature is not in session, a member of the legislature, while engaged in legislative business with prior authorization of the appropriate funding authority, is entitled to:

(1) a mileage allowance as provided in 2-18-503;

(2) expenses as provided in 2-18-501 and 2-18-502; and

(3) a salary equal to one full day's pay at the rate described in 5-2-301(1) for each 24-hour period of time (from midnight to midnight), or portion of a 24-hour period, spent on authorized interim, interim budget, or administrative committee legislative business or as otherwise provided by law. However, if time spent for business other than authorized legislative interim, interim budget, or administrative committee business or business related to 5-11-305 results in lengthening a legislator's stay away from home into an additional 24-hour period, the legislator may not be compensated for the additional day.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-310.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 1, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 8, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 1, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 222, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 81, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 392, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 525, L. 2021.**

Compiler's Comments

Termination Provision Repealed: Section 3, Ch. 494, L. 2023, repealed sec. 12, Ch. 525, L. 2021, which terminated the 2021 amendments to this section December 31, 2025. Effective May 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Compensation of legislators — presession caucus and presession business, 5-2-203.

Legislative constituent services allowance, stipend, and reimbursement, 5-2-204.

Compensation of Legislative Finance Committee members, 5-12-203.

Compensation of Legislative Audit Committee members, 5-13-203.

Compensation of Legislative Consumer Committee members, 69-1-212.

Compensation of Environmental Quality Council members, 75-1-302.

5-2-303. *(Subsection (2)(c) effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Participation in state benefits group — employer contribution made to other plan.** (1) Individual members of the senate and the house of representatives may enroll in the state employees benefits group during the terms to which they have been elected. The provider of benefits shall enroll and collect employee contributions directly from those legislators. The employer contribution must be paid from funds appropriated for that purpose.

(2) (a) If a member elects to waive coverage under the state employees benefits group plan and is insured under a plan providing disability insurance, as defined in 33-1-207, or is covered through a life insurance policy, as defined in 33-1-208, the department of administration, upon request of the member, shall pay to the member an amount equal to the premium required to be paid by the member for coverage of the member and any dependents under the disability insurance plan or life insurance policy, subject to the limitation contained in subsection (2)(b) less any required tax withholding.

(b) A payment made under subsection (2)(a) may not exceed the amount of the employer contribution for group benefits for members of the legislature as provided for in 2-18-703.

(c) To the extent allowed under federal law, a member may be reimbursed for premiums for:

(i) a plan offered as an individual major medical policy or a medicare supplement plan; or

(ii) coverage under medicare plans.

(d) Unused employer contributions must be transferred to an account as provided in 2-18-703 for a legislator who is a state employee and who has contributions paid for by another agency when the legislature is not in session. *(Subsection (2)(c) effective on occurrence of contingency—sec. 3, 4, Ch. 300, L. 2017.)*

History: En. 43-310.3 by Sec. 12, Ch. 563, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-310.3; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 555, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 392, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 2017.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Effective Date: Section 4(2), Ch. 300, L. 2017, provided: "(2) [Section 1(2)(c)] [5-2-303(2)(c)] is effective when the department of administration certifies to the code commissioner that either or both contingencies in [section 3] have occurred."

Section 3, Ch. 300, L. 2017, provided: "Section 3. Contingent effectiveness. (1) If the penalties for reimbursement of individual major medical policy or medicare supplement premiums under section 4980D of the Internal Revenue Code are repealed or amended to permit the state employees benefits group to allow reimbursement under [section 1(2)(c)(i)] [5-2-303(2)(c)(i)], then [section 1(2)(c)(i)] of this act is effective. The department of administration shall inform the code commissioner and certify when the penalties are repealed or amended and if the state employees benefits group may reimburse legislator members as provided in [section 1(2)(c)(i)].

(2) If the prohibition against financial and other incentives for reimbursement of medicare premiums under 42 CFR, part 411, subpart E, and 42 U.S.C. 1395y(b) is repealed or amended to permit the state employees benefits group to allow reimbursement under [section 1(2)(c)(ii)] [5-2-303(2)(c)(ii)], then [section 1(2)(c)(ii)] of this act is effective. The department of administration shall inform the code commissioner and certify when the prohibition is repealed or amended and if the state employees benefits group may reimburse legislator members as provided in [section 1(2)(c)(ii)]."

Cross-References

Contribution to group insurance plan, 2-18-702, 2-18-703.

State group insurance, Title 2, ch. 18, part 8.

Public employees' retirement system, Title 19, ch. 3.

5-2-304. Participation in public retirement systems. (1) The purpose of this section is to allow a person who is elected or appointed to the Montana legislature and who is also a member of a retirement system provided for in Title 19, chapter 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 20, or 21, by virtue of the person's nonlegislative employment to continue the person's participation in the public retirement system of which the person is a member.

(2) This section is not intended to provide duplicate credit for the same service in two retirement systems supported wholly or in part by public funds. This section does not affect contribution rates or benefit payments specifically provided for in the laws governing the operation of individual retirement systems.

(3) (a) A person who is an inactive or retired member of a retirement system provided for in Title 19, chapter 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 20, or 21, and who is elected or appointed to be a legislator may:

(i) return to active membership in the system of which the person is an inactive or retired member under the requirements of that system; or

(ii) remain an inactive or retired member of the retirement system and become an active member of the public employees' retirement system pursuant to 19-3-413.

(b) A person who is an inactive or retired member of the public employees' retirement system provided for in Title 19, chapter 3, and who is elected or appointed to the legislature may return to active membership in the public employees' retirement system but cannot simultaneously be an inactive or retired member of the system as a result of prior covered terminated employment and an active member of the retirement system under 19-3-413 or this section.

(4) (a) A person who is an active member of a public retirement system governed by state law and who is elected or appointed to be a legislator may, but is not required to, continue the person's participation in that public retirement system while engaged in official duties as a legislator.

(b) To continue participation as an active member in the public retirement system, a legislator shall, within 90 days of taking office and in a manner prescribed by the appropriate board, file an irrevocable written election with the teachers' retirement board or the public employees' retirement board.

(5) A legislator who elects to continue participation as an active member as provided in subsection (4) shall continue the payments into the fund of the retirement system at the rate currently in effect in the system based on the legislator's monthly salary as a member of that system.

(6) The state contribution must be made by legislative appropriation. It must equal the appropriate employer contribution at the rate currently in effect in the system.

History: En. 43-310.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-310.2; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 99, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Public retirement systems, Title 19, ch. 1 through 9, 13, 17 through 20.

Part 4
Vacancies

Part Cross-References

Vacancy in Legislature, Art. V, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Vacancy and succession, Title 2, ch. 16, part 5.
Montana Recall Act, Title 2, ch. 16, part 6.
Vacancy prior to primary election, 13-10-326.
Vacancy after primary and prior to general election, 13-10-327.
Vacancies among nominees after nomination and before general election, 13-14-118.

5-2-401. Definitions. (1) As used in 5-2-406, "term" means the 4-year period to which a senator is normally elected in the absence of a vacancy.

(2) For the purposes of this part, "vacancy" or "vacancies" has the same meaning as prescribed in 2-16-501.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 179, L. 1967; Sec. 43-217, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 198, L. 1977; Sec. 43-215, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 43-215(4)(a), 43-217.

5-2-402. Appointment by board of county commissioners — county central committee role — timeframes. (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) or as otherwise provided by law, whenever a vacancy occurs in the legislature, the vacancy must be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners or, in the event of a multicounty district, the boards of county commissioners of the counties comprising the district sitting as one appointing board.

(2) (a) Whenever a vacancy as described in 2-16-501 is within a single county, the board of county commissioners shall make the appointment as described in 5-2-403, 5-2-404, or 5-2-406.

(b) Whenever a vacancy is within a multicounty district, the boards of county commissioners shall sit as one appointing board. The selection of an individual to fill the vacancy must be as follows:

(i) The presiding officer of the board of county commissioners of the county in which the person resided whose vacancy is to be filled shall call a meeting for the purpose of appointing the member of the legislature and shall preside at the meeting.

(ii) Each commissioner's vote is determined by the following formula: 100 multiplied by (A divided by B) multiplied by (1 divided by C), where:

(A) A is the total votes cast in the respective county for the person vacating the legislative seat or, if the vacating person was not elected, the votes cast for the last person to be elected for the current term;

(B) B is the total votes cast for that person in the legislative district; and

(C) C is the number of authorized commissioners on the board of the commissioner whose vote is being determined.

(iii) The person selected to fill the vacancy is the one who receives the highest number above 50 that results from the calculation in subsection (2)(b)(ii). If none of the candidates receives a number higher than 50 from that calculation, the selection board shall cast its votes again in the same manner for the persons receiving the two highest numbers. If neither vote results in a candidate receiving a number higher than 50 from the calculation provided in subsection (2)(b)(ii), then 5-2-404 applies.

(c) If a vacancy occurs in a holdover senate seat after holdover senators have been assigned to new districts under each reapportionment, the formula in subsection (2)(b)(ii) must be applied using the votes cast for the senatorial candidates at the last election in which votes were cast for a senate candidate. Only the number of votes cast by electors residing in the new senate district for senate candidates of the party to which the person vacating the seat belonged may be counted. The secretary of state shall provide an estimate of the number of votes cast for each party by county or portion of a county. The selection process is the same as provided in subsection (2)(b)(iii).

(3) The appointment process to fill a vacancy in the legislature under this section is as follows:

(a) Within 7 days of being notified of a vacancy, the secretary of state shall notify the board of county commissioners and the state party that is responsible for notifying the county central committee of the county where the vacating legislator is a resident, if the legislative seat is within one county, or the boards of county commissioners and the corresponding county central committees if the legislative seat is in a multicounty district. If the legislator is an independent or belongs to a party for which there is no county central committee, the notification of county commissioners suffices.

(b) The county central committee or committees, upon receipt of notification of a vacancy, have 45 days to propose a list of prospective appointees, pursuant to 5-2-403(1). The county central committee or the county central committees, acting together, shall forward the list of names to the appointing board within the 45-day period.

(c) The appointing board shall make and confirm an appointment and notify the secretary of state within 15 days:

(i) after receiving the list of prospective appointees from the county central committee or committees;

(ii) after 45 days have expired after the notification of a vacancy if the county central committee or committees have not provided a list of prospective appointees; or

(iii) after notification of a vacancy if the legislator vacating the seat is an independent.

(4) If the legislature is in session, the notification process in subsection (3)(a) must be followed within 5 days. The process described in subsection (3)(b) must take place in 5 days. The process described in subsection (3)(c) must take place in 5 days.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection (6), if a vacancy occurs prior to a primary election, 13-10-326 applies. If a vacancy occurs after a primary and prior to a general election, 13-10-327 applies.

(6) If the legislature is called into special session within 85 days of a general election, a person must be appointed to fill a legislative vacancy pursuant to subsections (1) through (4).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 198, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-215(1), (2), (6); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 493, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 418, L. 2017.

Cross-References

County Commissioners, Title 7, ch. 4, part 21.

5-2-403. Appointee to be of same political party. (1) Whenever an appointee's predecessor served as a member of a political party, the appointee named under 5-2-402 must be a member of the same political party and must be selected from a list of three individuals provided:

(a) by the county central committee in a district within a single county; or

(b) by the county central committees, acting together, in a multicounty district, as described in 5-2-402.

(2) Whenever the appointing board is unable to elect an appointee from the submitted list, the appointing board shall request a second list of three names from the county central committee or committees. The second list may not contain any of the names submitted on the first list. The appointing board shall then select an appointee from the individuals named on both lists.

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply if the predecessor served as an independent.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 198, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-215(5); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Political parties generally, Title 13, ch. 38.

County central committees, 13-38-202.

5-2-404. Procedure upon failure of one candidate to receive majority vote. In the event that a decision cannot be made by the appointing board because of failure of any candidate to receive a majority of the votes, the final decision may be made by lot from the first and second lists of candidates as provided by 5-2-403 or from a list of three individuals if the predecessor served as an independent, in accordance with rules of selection adopted by the appointing board.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 198, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-216; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 336, L. 2003.

5-2-405. Term of appointee. (1) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the house of representatives, the appointee shall serve until the end of the term to which the predecessor was elected.

(2) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the senate, the appointee shall serve until a successor can be elected as provided in 5-2-406.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 198, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-215(3); amd. Sec. 223, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-2-406. Elections to fill vacancies in senate. (1) Whenever a vacancy occurs 85 days or more before the general election held during the second year of the term, an individual must be appointed pursuant to 5-2-402. The appointment continues until a person is elected to complete the term at the upcoming general election and is sworn into office. The election procedure to be used to elect the successor is as follows:

(a) Whenever the vacancy occurs 85 days or more prior to the primary election during the second year, the same procedure as is used for senators who will be elected to full 4-year terms at that general election must be utilized.

(b) Whenever the vacancy occurs on or after the 85th day prior to the primary election, any political party desiring to enter a candidate in the general election shall select a candidate as provided in 13-10-327 and 13-38-204. A political party shall notify the secretary of state of the party nominee. A person desiring to be a candidate as an independent shall follow the procedures provided in 13-10-501 and 13-10-502. The petition for an independent candidate must be filed with the secretary of state on or before the 85th day prior to the general election.

(2) Whenever a vacancy occurs on or after the 85th day prior to the general election held during the second year of the term, the person appointed by the board under 5-2-402 shall serve until the end of the term.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 198, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-215(4)(b), (4)(c); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 526, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 250, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 336, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Term of office, 5-2-102.

Times for holding general elections, 13-1-104.

Times for holding primary elections, 13-1-107.

5-2-407. Anticipated vacancy. (1) Whenever it appears that a vacancy will exist in the legislature because of the inability of an elected legislator to take office at the commencement of the term to which the legislator was elected, an appointee may be selected in advance of the commencement of the term under the provisions of 5-2-402 through 5-2-406.

(2) For purposes of determining the term of office of the appointee, the term of office commences on the day on which the appointee takes the oath of office.

(3) An appointee under this section may take office only if the vacancy in fact exists at the commencement of the term of office.

History: **En. 43-216.1 by Sec. 4, Ch. 198, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-216.1; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 336, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Vacancy and succession — executive office, Title 2, ch. 16, part 5.

Judicial vacancies, Title 3, ch. 1, part 9.

Part 5
Legislative Branch Consolidation

5-2-501. Declaration of policy and purpose. It is the public policy of this state and the purpose of this part:

(1) to create a structure of the legislative branch of state government that is efficient and responsive to the needs of the people of this state and is sufficiently flexible to meet changing conditions;

(2) to strengthen the legislative branch capacity to administer its affairs effectively and efficiently on behalf of the people of the state;

(3) to provide means for coordination of branch activities; and

(4) to eliminate unnecessary overlapping and duplication of effort within the legislative branch of state government.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 545, L. 1995.**

5-2-502. Structure of legislative branch. The legislature established in Article V, section 1, of the Montana constitution and the committees established by law constitute the legislative branch. The functional organization of the legislative branch is governed by the joint rules of the legislature and the laws governing the several components of the branch. The administrative organization of the legislative branch is consolidated as provided in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 545, L. 1995.**

5-2-503. Consolidation of legislative branch entities for specified purposes. (1) An entity of the legislative branch that is consolidated as provided in 5-2-504 shall:

(a) exercise its substantive functions independently as provided by law;

(b) adhere to administrative policies, including personnel policies, adopted by the legislative council;

(c) submit its budget proposals through the legislative council; and

(d) submit reports required of it as provided in 5-11-210.

(2) The legislative services division shall:

(a) coordinate budgeting, recordkeeping, reporting, and related administrative and clerical functions as a consolidated entity, including acknowledgment of actions by the approving authority of the consolidated entity;

(b) include within legislative branch budgets the budget proposals for the legislature and the consolidated entities, separately identified;

(c) provide separate identification for appropriations and expenditures for the legislature and for each of the consolidated entities;

(d) establish procedures for approval of expenditures by the legislature and by each of the consolidated entities; and

(e) provide personnel administration for the legislative branch. The senate and the house of representatives or a consolidated entity with statutory hiring authority may hire its own personnel, subject to administrative procedures established by the legislature and legislative council.

(3) The legislative council shall allocate office space occupied by the legislative branch for the use of a consolidated entity as necessary. Space occupied by the senate or the house of representatives may not be reallocated except as provided in 2-17-108. The location of the chambers of the house of representatives and the senate must be determined as provided by 2-17-101.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 20, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 19, L. 1999.**

5-2-504. Legislative branch consolidated. The following legislative branch entities are consolidated, as provided in 5-2-503 and this section:

(1) the senate and the house of representatives provided for in Article V, section 1, of the Montana constitution;

(2) the legislative council established by 5-11-101;

(3) the legislative services division established by 5-11-111;

(4) the legislative finance committee established by 5-12-201;

(5) the legislative fiscal division established by 5-12-301;

(6) the legislative audit committee established by 5-13-201;

(7) the legislative audit division established by 5-13-301; and

(8) the environmental quality council established by 5-16-101.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Legislative Council — rules for classification and pay of Legislative Branch employees, 5-11-105.

CHAPTER 3
SPECIAL SESSIONS

Part 1 — Call of Special Session

5-3-101. Convening of special session — limiting subjects — committee meetings — compensation.
5-3-102. Calling of a future special session when legislature is in session.
5-3-103 and 5-3-104 reserved.
5-3-105. Request by 10 members to poll legislators.
5-3-106. Procedure for polling legislators.
5-3-107. Notice of time of approved special session.
5-3-108. Failure to approve special session — ballots void.

Chapter Cross-References

Sessions of Legislature, Art. V, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Special sessions convened by Governor, Art. VI, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Special session called to fill vacancy in elective office, 2-16-504.
Emergency session — gubernatorial succession, 2-16-513.
Time and place of legislative session, 5-2-103.
Emergency order convening special session, 10-3-505.

Part 1
Call of Special Session

5-3-101. Convening of special session — limiting subjects — committee meetings — compensation. (1) The legislature may be convened in special session by the governor or at the written request of a majority of the members. Subject to 5-5-227, the governor or the legislature may limit the special session to the subjects specified in the call.

(2) (a) A standing committee of the legislature may meet prior to a special session for the purpose of holding hearings and taking action on preintroduced legislation that has been referred to that committee.

(b) Public notice of a hearing to be held by a standing committee prior to a special session must be given at least 7 days before the hearing.

(3) Members of the legislature engaged in presession business for a special session are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302. Members of the legislature are entitled to receive compensation and expenses, as provided in 5-2-301, for the day prior to the convening of a special session.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-319; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Statutes — special session — effective date, 1-2-201.

5-3-102. Calling of a future special session when legislature is in session. When the legislature is in session, a majority of the members may by a written request call a special session to meet at a specified time.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 433, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-320.

Cross-References

Call of special session by recorded vote, 5-2-103.

5-3-103 and 5-3-104 reserved.

5-3-105. Request by 10 members to poll legislators. (1) When the legislature is not in session, any 10 members may in writing request the secretary of state to poll the legislators to determine if a majority are in favor of a special session.

(2) The request must state:

(a) the conditions warranting the call of a special session;

(b) the purposes of the special session; and

(c) the proposed convening date and time of the special session.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 433, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-321.

5-3-106. Procedure for polling legislators. (1) Within 5 days after receiving a request, the secretary of state shall send to all legislators by certified mail a ballot that contains:

(a) the names of the legislators making the request;

(b) the reasons for calling the special session;

(c) the purposes of the special session;

(d) the requested convening date and time of the special session;

(e) subject to subsection (2), the date by which legislators shall return the ballot, which may not be more than 30 days after the date of the mailing of the ballots; and

(f) a stamped return envelope.

(2) Within 2 calendar days after receiving a request to consider an existing state of emergency or disaster declared under the authority of 10-3-303, the secretary of state shall send a ballot that complies with subsection (1) using any reasonable and reliable means, including electronic delivery, and is not required to use certified mail. The date by which legislators shall return the ballot specified in this subsection (2) may not be more than 7 calendar days after the date the ballots were sent.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 433, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-322; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 416, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 504, L. 2021.

5-3-107. Notice of time of approved special session. If a majority of the legislators reply affirmatively to the poll, the secretary of state shall notify each legislator of the time and day on which the special session shall convene.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 433, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-324.

5-3-108. Failure to approve special session — ballots void. (1) Subject to subsection (2), if a majority of the legislators fail to approve the call for a special session within 30 days after the secretary of state mails the ballots or notifies each legislator, all ballots are void and may not be used again.

(2) When the purpose of the special session is to consider an existing state of emergency or disaster declared under the authority of 10-3-303, if a majority of the legislators fail to approve the call for a special session within 7 calendar days after the secretary of state sends the ballots or notifies each legislator pursuant to 5-3-106(2), all ballots are void and may not be used again.

(3) If a poll is not approved under subsection (1) or (2), the entire process must be repeated to call the legislature into special session.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 433, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-325; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 504, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 4

BILLS

Part 1 — General Provisions

5-4-101. Form of enacting clause.
5-4-102. Limitation on title of referred legislation.
5-4-103. Rulemaking authority.
5-4-104. Tax expenditure criteria — legislation.
5-4-105. Predrafting.

Part 2 — Fiscal Notes in Legislative Bills

5-4-201. Requirement of fiscal notes with committee reports.
5-4-202. Requests for notes by committee, house, or sponsor.

5-4-203. Budget director to prepare note.
5-4-204. Submission of fiscal note — sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal — distribution to legislators.
5-4-205. Contents of notes.
5-4-206. Background information to legislators on request.
5-4-207. Repealed.
5-4-208. Report of actual costs for legislation with projected fiscal impact.
5-4-209 reserved.
5-4-210. Estimate of fiscal impact on local government required.

Part 3 — Action by Governor on Bills

5-4-301. Bills received by governor — how endorsed.
5-4-302. Approval of bills.
5-4-303. Line item veto.
5-4-304. Amendatory veto.
5-4-305. Bills returned without approval.
5-4-306. Return when legislature not in session.
5-4-307. Bills remaining with governor.
5-4-308. Transmittal of veto messages to legislative services division.

Part 4 — Legislative History Act (Repealed)

Part 5 — Family Impact Notes for Legislative Bills (Terminated)

Chapter Cross-References

No bill of attainder, Art. II, sec. 30, Mont. Const.
Ex post facto, obligations of contracts, and irrevocable privileges, Art. II, sec. 31, Mont. Const.
Importation of armed persons, Art. II, sec. 33, Mont. Const.
Special consideration for service persons, Art. II, sec. 35, Mont. Const.
Continuity of government during periods of emergency, Art. III, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Initiative, Art. III, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Special election for initiative or referendum, Art. III, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Gambling, Art. III, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Election laws, Art. IV, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Eligibility for public office, Art. IV, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Bills — Art. V, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Local and special legislation, Art. V, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Governor to submit budget and messages, Art. VI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Judicial rules of procedure subject to disapproval by Legislature, Art. VII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Increase in number of Justices of Supreme Court, Art. VII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Providing for court review of administrative decisions, Art. VII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Increase in number of Justices of the Peace, Art. VII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Judicial districts, Art. VII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Judicial Standards Commission, Art. VII, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Property tax exemptions created by Legislature, Art. VIII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Appropriation of highway revenue, Art. VIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Tax appeals, Art. VIII, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Creation of state debt, Art. VIII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Balanced budget, Art. VIII, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Legislature to insure strict accountability of all revenue received, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for public funds investment, Art. VIII, sec. 13, Mont. Const.
Prohibited payments, Art. VIII, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide protection of environment and natural resources, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for reclamation, Art. IX, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for administration of water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for cultural resources, Art. IX, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Severance tax on coal — trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for public education, Art. X, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Aid prohibited to sectarian schools, Art. X, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide forms of local government, Art. XI, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide procedure for local self-government, Art. XI, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Initiative and referendum extended to local government units, Art. XI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Voter review of local government, Art. XI, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for Department of Agriculture, Art. XII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for Department of Labor, Art. XII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Legislature may provide economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Nonmunicipal corporations, Art. XIII, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Legislature to provide for Office of Consumer Counsel, Art. XIII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Code of ethics, Art. XIII, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 2.
Homestead and exemption laws, Art. XIII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Statutory construction, Title 1, ch. 2.
Statutes imposing new local government duties, 1-2-112 through 1-2-114.
Effect of Legislature's actions, Title 1, ch. 2, part 2.
Duty of Secretary of State to receive bills during session, 2-15-401.
Initiative and referendum, Title 13, ch. 27.
Legislative action on budget bill, 17-7-131, 17-7-132.
Governor to report to Legislature need for supplemental appropriations bills, 17-7-301.
Statutory construction questions decided by courts, 26-1-201.
Declaratory judgment to obtain construction of statute, 27-8-202.

Part 1
General Provisions

5-4-101. Form of enacting clause. The enacting clause of every law shall be as follows: "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-516.

5-4-102. Limitation on title of referred legislation. All bills referred by the legislature to a vote of the people must have a title of no more than 100 words, exclusive of section numbers of any statutes being amended or repealed.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 400, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Referendum, Title 13, ch. 27.

5-4-103. Rulemaking authority. A statute delegating rulemaking authority to an agency must contain specific guidelines describing for the agency and the public what the rules may and may not contain.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 11, L. 1997.

5-4-104. Tax expenditure criteria — legislation. (1) The legislature recognizes the value of relevant information when making determinations regarding tax policy and tax expenditures. The legislature also recognizes the need to reevaluate tax expenditures after enactment. In consideration of these policy goals, the legislature encourages a policy of providing an explicit purpose of a tax expenditure and termination dates of no more than 6 years in any legislation creating, expanding, or continuing a tax expenditure.

(2) As used in this section, the term "tax expenditures" means those revenue losses attributable to provisions of Montana tax laws that allow a special exclusion, exemption, or deduction from gross income or that provide a special credit, a preferential rate of tax, or a deferral of tax liability including:

(a) personal income and corporate income tax exemptions;

(b) property tax exemptions for which application to the department is necessary;

(c) deferral of income;

(d) credits allowed against Montana personal income tax or Montana corporate income tax;

(e) deductions from income; and

(f) any other identifiable preferential treatment of income or property.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 2013.

5-4-105. Predrafting. (1) Prior to the legislative services division working on a bill draft request, the legislative services division shall offer to provide to the requesting legislator a brief history on the subject matter in the legislature in the past five sessions, including but not limited to:

(a) any legislation introduced in the past five sessions; and

(b) links to any online materials, including bills, fiscal notes, audio or video files, and minutes.

(2) The legislative services division may request assistance from the legislative fiscal division or legislative audit division on any state budgetary, fiscal, or audit information related to the subject matter.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 2017.

Part 2
Fiscal Notes in Legislative Bills

Part Cross-References

The Legislative Finance Act, Title 5, ch. 12.

5-4-201. Requirement of fiscal notes with committee reports. All bills reported out of a committee of the legislature having an effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability of the state or of a county or municipality, except appropriation measures carrying specific dollar amounts, shall include a fiscal note incorporating an estimate of such effect. Fiscal notes shall be requested by the presiding officer of either house, who shall determine the need for the note at the time of introduction.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 314, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Voidness: Section 3, Ch. 314, L. 2021, provided: "(1) If the budget director is unable to identify and secure a qualified fiscal estimating provider in Montana, such as the economics department of a college or university, willing to provide a draft estimate at no cost to the state as provided in [section 1] [5-4-201], then [this act] is void.

(2) The budget director shall notify the code commissioner if the contingency in subsection (1) occurs." The budget director notified the code commissioner on September 21, 2022, that the contingency in subsection (1) occurred.

5-4-202. Requests for notes by committee, house, or sponsor. A fiscal note also may be requested on a bill, as the joint rules of the senate and the house of representatives may allow, by:

(1) a committee considering the bill;

(2) a majority of the members of the house in which the bill is to be considered, at the time of second reading; or

(3) the sponsor, through the presiding officer.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 53, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1005.

5-4-203. Budget director to prepare note. The budget director, in cooperation with the state or local agencies or officials or organizations representing local agencies or officials affected by the bill, is responsible for the preparation of the fiscal note and shall return same within 6 days. The director may request additional time to complete a note, which extension must be submitted to the presiding officer or committee requesting the note for approval.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 53, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 326, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1002; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 229, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Appointment of Budget Director, 17-7-103.

5-4-204. Submission of fiscal note — sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal — distribution to legislators. (1) A completed fiscal note must be submitted by the budget director to the presiding officer who requested it. Upon receipt of the completed fiscal note, the presiding officer shall notify the sponsor of the bill for which the fiscal note was prepared that the fiscal note has been completed and is available for review. Within 24 hours following notification, the sponsor shall:

(a) notify the presiding officer that the sponsor concurs with the completed fiscal note;

(b) request additional time, not to exceed 24 hours, to consult with the budget director on the fiscal note; or

(c) elect to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal as provided in subsection (4).

(2) (a) If the sponsor concurs with the completed fiscal note prepared by the budget director or elects to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, the presiding officer shall refer the completed fiscal note prepared by the budget director to the committee considering the bill. If the bill is printed, the note must be reproduced and placed on the members' desks.

(b) If the sponsor requests additional time to consult with the budget director, the presiding officer shall notify the sponsor and the budget director of the time, not to extend beyond the time limitation specified in subsection (1)(b), by which:

(i) the budget director shall submit a revised completed fiscal note to the presiding officer;

(ii) the sponsor shall notify the presiding officer that the sponsor concurs with the original completed fiscal note; or

(iii) the sponsor shall elect to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal as provided in subsection (4).

(3) At the time specified as provided in subsection (2)(b), the presiding officer shall refer the original or, if revised, the revised fiscal note to the committee considering the bill. If the bill is printed, the note must be reproduced and placed on the members' desks.

(4) (a) If a sponsor elects to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, the sponsor shall prepare the fiscal note rebuttal on a form provided by the legislative services division and return the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form to the presiding officer within 4 days of the election to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal. The form must identify the bill number, the sponsor of the bill, the date prepared, the version of the fiscal note being rebutted, the reasons the sponsor disagrees with the fiscal note, the items or assumptions in the fiscal note that the sponsor believes are incorrect, and the sponsor's estimate of the fiscal impact, if an estimate is available.

(b) The presiding officer may grant additional time to the sponsor to prepare the sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal.

(c) Upon receipt of the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form, the presiding officer shall refer it to the committee hearing the bill. If the bill is printed, the form must be identified as a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, reproduced, and placed on the members' desks.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 53, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 326, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 321, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 224, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 392, L. 2009.

5-4-205. Contents of notes. (1) Fiscal notes must, when possible, show in dollar amounts the estimated increase or decrease in revenue or expenditures, costs that may be absorbed without additional funds, and long-range financial implications. A comment or opinion relative to the merits of the bill may not be included in the fiscal note. However, technical or mechanical defects may be noted.

(2) It is the legislature's intent that a fiscal note be prepared as an objective analysis of the fiscal impact of legislation. The fiscal note should represent only the estimate of the revenue and expenditures that would result from the implementation of the legislation, if enacted, and may not in any way reflect the views or opinions of the preparing agencies, the sponsor, or other interested parties. Changes in revenue must be estimated for each reported year based upon appropriate revenue estimating methodologies for the source of revenue described and should reflect a change from the official revenue estimate provided for in 5-5-227. Expenditures must be estimated as the amount required for implementing the legislation, if enacted, in excess of or as a reduction to the present law base level of expenditures in each reported year regardless of whether or not the preparing agency determines that it can absorb the costs in its proposed budget.

(3) The fiscal note must clearly differentiate between facts and assumptions made in the preparation of the fiscal note while maintaining a logical flow of both fact and assumption in presenting how the fiscal impact is determined.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 53, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1004; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 392, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 314, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Voidness: Section 3, Ch. 314, L. 2021, provided: "(1) If the budget director is unable to identify and secure a qualified fiscal estimating provider in Montana, such as the economics department of a college or university, willing to provide a draft estimate at no cost to the state as provided in [section 1] [5-4-201], then [this act] is void.

(2) The budget director shall notify the code commissioner if the contingency in subsection (1) occurs." The budget director notified the code commissioner on September 21, 2022, that the contingency in subsection (1) occurred.

5-4-206. Background information to legislators on request. The budget director shall make available on request to any member of the legislature all background information used in developing a fiscal note.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 53, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 326, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 321, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1006.

5-4-207. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 266, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 195, L. 1991.

5-4-208. *(Temporary)* **Report of actual costs for legislation with projected fiscal impact.** (1) Except for the general appropriations act and any bill exempted by the legislature, for each bill with an estimated expenditure amount of over $1 million from the general fund in any 1 of the 4 fiscal years identified in the bill's fiscal note, or as required in the bill, that is passed and approved for which a fiscal note is prepared and presented to the legislature, the office of budget and program planning shall prepare and present an annual report to the legislative finance committee by October 1 of each year. The report must include the following information:

(a) the name of the bill;

(b) the actual expenditures incurred based on the bill as enacted for the past entire fiscal year and a description of how the funds were expended; and

(c) a comparison to the projected costs of the bill as projected in the fiscal note for that same fiscal year.

(2) The report to the legislature must include bills that qualify under subsection (1) for which a fiscal note was prepared which have been in effect for at least 1 fiscal year. The bill must be included in the report for each year a cost was projected in a corresponding fiscal note.

(3) The report must be provided in an electronic format.

(4) The report must also be submitted to the legislature as provided in 5-11-210. *(Terminates December 31, 2025—sec. 6, Ch. 350, L. 2021.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 2021.

5-4-209 reserved.

5-4-210. Estimate of fiscal impact on local government required. (1) A bill that, if enacted, may require a local government unit to perform an activity or provide a service or facility that requires a direct expenditure of additional funds without a specific means to finance the activity, service, or facility in violation of 1-2-112 or 1-2-113 must be accompanied, at the time that the bill is presented for introduction to the chief clerk of the house of representatives or the secretary of the senate, by an estimate of all direct and indirect fiscal impacts on a local government unit. The estimate of fiscal impacts must be prepared by the budget director in cooperation with a local government unit affected by the bill. The budget director has 10 days to prepare the estimate.

(2) The estimate must show in dollar amounts the increase in expenditures that may be required by the bill. Comment or opinion relative to the merits of the bill may not be included in the estimate. However, technical or mechanical defects may be noted. Upon completion of the estimate, the budget director shall submit the estimate to the requestor of the bill.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 416, L. 1995.

Part 3
Action by Governor on Bills

Part Cross-References

Bills, Art. V, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

Immunity from suit for gubernatorial actions on bills, 2-9-113.

5-4-301. Bills received by governor — how endorsed. Each bill passed by the legislature, except bills proposing amendments to the Montana constitution, bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States constitution, resolutions, and initiative and referendum measures, must be submitted to the governor for the governor's signature. Each bill must, as soon as it is delivered to the governor, be endorsed as follows: "This bill was received by the governor this .... day of ...., 20...". The endorsement must be signed by the governor or by an assistant authorized by the governor.

History: En. Sec. 270, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 100, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 84, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 309; re-en. Sec. 84, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-501; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

5-4-302. Approval of bills. When the governor approves a bill, the governor shall sign the bill with the date of approval and deposit the bill in the office of the secretary of state.

History: En. Sec. 271, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 101, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 85, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 310; re-en. Sec. 85, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-502(1); amd. Sec. 225, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References
Secretary of State to assign chapter numbers to new laws, 5-11-204.

5-4-303. Line item veto. If a bill presented to the governor contains several distinct items of appropriation of money, the governor may disapprove one or more items while approving other portions of the bill. If an item is disapproved, the governor shall append to the bill, at the time of signing it, a statement of the items objected to and the reasons for the objection. The governor shall transmit to the house in which the bill originated, or to the secretary of state if the legislature is not in session, a copy of the statement, and the items objected to must be separately reconsidered in the same manner as bills that have been disapproved by the governor.

History: En. Sec. 271, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 101, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 85, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 310; re-en. Sec. 85, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-502(2); amd. Sec. 226, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References
Veto power, Art. VI, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

5-4-304. Amendatory veto. The governor may return any bill to the originating house with the governor's recommendations for amendment. The originating house shall reconsider the bill under its rules relating to an amendment offered in committee of the whole. The bill is then subject to the following procedures:

(1) The originating house shall transmit to the second house, for consideration under its rules relating to amendments in committee of the whole, the bill and the originating house's approval or disapproval of the governor's recommendations.

(2) If both houses approve the governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the governor for reconsideration.

(3) If both houses disapprove the governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the governor for reconsideration.

(4) If one house disapproves the governor's recommendations and the other house approves, then either house may request a conference committee, which may be a free conference committee:

(a) If both houses adopt a conference committee report, the bill, in accordance with the report, must be returned to the governor for reconsideration.

(b) If a conference committee fails to reach agreement or if its report is not adopted by both houses, the governor's recommendations are considered not approved and the bill must be returned to the governor for further consideration.

(5) The governor may not return the bill for amendment a second time.

History: En. Sec. 271, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 101, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 85, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 310; re-en. Sec. 85, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-502(3); amd. Sec. 227, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Cross-References
Veto power, Art. VI, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

5-4-305. Bills returned without approval. (1) A bill or item or items of an appropriations bill become law whenever:

(a) the bill passes both houses of the legislature;

(b) the bill is returned by the governor without signature and with objections to the bill or, if it is a bill containing several items of appropriation of money, with objections to one or more items; and

(c) upon reconsideration the bill or item or items pass both houses by the constitutional majority.

(2) The bill or item or items must be authenticated by a certificate endorsed on or attached to the bill or the copy of the statement of objections. The form of the certificate must be: "This bill having been returned by the governor with objections and, after reconsideration, having passed both houses by the constitutional majority has become a law this .... day of ...., A.D. ...." or "The following items in the within statement (naming them) having, after reconsideration, passed both houses by the constitutional majority have become a law this .... day of ...., A.D. ...". The endorsement, signed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house, is sufficient authentication of the bill or item or items.

(3) The authenticated bill or statement must be delivered to the governor, who shall deposit it with the laws in the office of the secretary of state.

History: **En. Sec. 272, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 102, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 86, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 311; re-en. Sec. 86, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-503; amd. Sec. 228, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Veto power, Art. VI, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

5-4-306. Return when legislature not in session. (1) If, on the day the governor desires to return a bill without approval and with objections to the bill to the house in which it originated, that house has adjourned for the day, but not for the session, the governor may deliver the bill with the message to the presiding officer, secretary, clerk, or any member of that house. The delivery is as effectual as though returned in open session if the governor, on the first day the house is again in session, by message, notifies it of the delivery and of the time when and the person to whom the delivery was made.

(2) If the legislature is not in session when the governor vetoes a bill, the governor shall return the bill with the reasons for the veto to the secretary of state. If the bill was not approved by two-thirds of the members voting on the final vote on the bill, the secretary of state shall within 5 working days of receipt of the bill and veto message mail a copy of the title of the bill and the veto message to each member of the legislature. If the bill was approved by two-thirds of the members voting on the final vote on the bill, the secretary of state shall poll the members of the legislature. The secretary of state shall within 5 working days of receipt of the bill and veto message send by certified mail to each legislator, at an address provided by the legislator, a copy of the bill and the veto message, a ballot, a return envelope, instructions for casting a vote, and notice of the date by which each legislator shall return a vote. The date for return must be within 30 days after the date on which the bill, veto message, and voting instructions are sent. A legislator may cast and return a vote by delivering the ballot and return envelope in person or by mailing the ballot in the return envelope by regular mail, postage paid, or by sending the ballot by facsimile transmission to the office of the secretary of state. A legislator may not change the legislator's vote after the ballot is received by the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall tally the votes within 1 working day after the date for return of the votes. If two-thirds or more of the members of each house vote to override the veto, the bill becomes law.

(3) The legislature may reconvene to reconsider any bill vetoed by the governor when the legislature is not in session by using the statutory procedure provided for convening in special session.

History: **En. Sec. 273, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 103, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 87, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 312; re-en. Sec. 87, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-504; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 3, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 685, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 229, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Special sessions, Art. V. sec. 6, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 3.

Veto power, Art. VI, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

5-4-307. Bills remaining with governor. (1) A bill that has passed both houses of the legislature and has not been returned by the governor within 10 days after its delivery to the governor becomes law.

(2) The governor shall deliver the bill to the secretary of state and direct the secretary of state to authenticate it by a certificate endorsed on or attached to the bill. The form of the certificate must be: "This bill having remained with the governor 10 days, it has become a law this .... day of ...., ...". The certificate must be signed by the secretary of state and deposited with the laws in the secretary of state's office.

History: **En. Sec. 274, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 104, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 88, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 313; re-en. Sec. 88, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-505; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Veto power, Art. VI, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

5-4-308. Transmittal of veto messages to legislative services division. The governor shall transmit one copy of each veto message to the legislative services division.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Legislative Council, Title 5, ch. 11.

Part 4
Legislative History Act
(Repealed)

5-4-401. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 11, L. 1997.

History: **En. 43-519 by Sec. 1, Ch. 560, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-519.**

5-4-402. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 11, L. 1997.

History: **En. 43-520 by Sec. 2, Ch. 560, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-520; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 466, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 29, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 420, L. 1989.**

5-4-403. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 11, L. 1997.

History: **En. 43-521 by Sec. 3, Ch. 560, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-521.**

5-4-404. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 11, L. 1997.

History: **En. 43-522 by Sec. 4, Ch. 560, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-522; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 420, L. 1989.**

Part 5
Family Impact Notes for Legislative Bills
(Terminated)

5-4-501. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 339, L. 1999.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1999.**

5-4-502. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 339, L. 1999.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 339, L. 1999.**

5-4-503. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 339, L. 1999.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 339, L. 1999.**

5-4-504. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 339, L. 1999.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 339, L. 1999.**

5-4-505. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 339, L. 1999.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 339, L. 1999.**

CHAPTER 5
LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

Part 1 — Legislature Investigative Powers

5-5-101. Renumbered 5-5-107.
5-5-102. Renumbered 5-5-108.
5-5-103. Renumbered 5-5-109.
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5-5-105. Renumbered 5-5-112.
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5-5-109. Contempt — misdemeanor.
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5-5-111. Compelling attendance.
5-5-112. Immunity of witness.

Part 2 — Organization — Interim Committees

5-5-201. Power to administer oaths.
5-5-202. Interim committees.
5-5-203 through 5-5-210 reserved.
5-5-211. Appointment and composition of interim committees.
5-5-212. Implied resignation of member — vacancies.
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5-5-218 through 5-5-220 reserved.
5-5-221. Repealed.
5-5-222. Repealed.

5-5-223. Economic affairs interim committee.
5-5-224. Education interim committee.
5-5-225. Children, families, health, and human services interim committee.
5-5-226. Law and justice interim committee.
5-5-227. Revenue interim committee — powers and duties — revenue estimating and use of estimates.
5-5-228. State administration and veterans' affairs interim committee.
5-5-229. State-tribal relations committee.
5-5-230. Energy and telecommunications interim committee.
5-5-231. Water policy interim committee.
5-5-232. Local government interim committee.
5-5-233. Transportation interim committee.
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Part 3 — Appointments by Governor

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5-5-422. Judgment on conviction — how pronounced.
5-5-423. Judgment on conviction — how finalized.
5-5-424 through 5-5-430 reserved.
5-5-431. Nature of judgment.
5-5-432. Effect of judgment of suspension.
5-5-433. Criminal prosecution not barred.

Chapter Cross-References

Referendum, Art. III, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Senate to confirm executive appointments, Art. VI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Vacancy in Office of Governor, Art. VI, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Senate to confirm judicial replacement nominations, Art. VII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Constitutional Convention, Art. XIV, sec. 1, 4, and 8, Mont. Const.
Code Commissioner to make report to Legislature, 1-11-204.
Legislative intent — poll, 2-4-403.
Legislative review of administrative rules, 2-4-412.
Legislative review of agencies, Title 2, ch. 8, part 1.
Elective officer's inability to perform — filling vacancy, 2-16-504.
Election by Legislature if President of Senate and Speaker unable to assume office of Governor, 2-16-512.
Legislative determination of state of emergency or disaster, 10-3-303.
Continuity of government, Title 10, ch. 3, part 6.
Tie vote in election for state executive officers, 13-16-504.
Board of Investments — coal tax trust fund investment — reports required, 17-6-305.
Investment of up to 25% of coal tax trust fund in Montana economy — report by board, 17-6-305.
Legislative action on budget, 17-7-131.

Part 1
Legislature Investigative Powers

Part Cross-References

Legislative Council powers relating to hearings, 5-11-107.
Media Confidentiality Act, Title 26, ch. 1, part 9.
Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 26, ch. 2.
Privileged communications, 27-1-804.

5-5-101. Renumbered 5-5-107. Code Commissioner, 2023.

5-5-102. Renumbered 5-5-108. Code Commissioner, 2023.

5-5-103. Renumbered 5-5-109. Code Commissioner, 2023.

5-5-104. Renumbered 5-5-111. Code Commissioner, 2023.

5-5-105. Renumbered 5-5-112. Code Commissioner, 2023.

5-5-106. Scope and application of legislature investigative powers. (1) (a) Pursuant to Article V, section 1, of the Montana constitution, the legislative power is vested in the legislature consisting of a senate and a house of representatives.

(b) The constitutional legislative power includes the legislature's broad power to investigate any subject related to enacting law, the implementation of enacted law, and the expenditure of money appropriated by the legislature.

(c) The presumption of constitutionality of legislative actions applies to legislative investigations.

(2) The broad scope and application of the legislature's investigative powers include but are not limited to the power to investigate:

(a) any subject regarding information in connection with the proper discharge of the legislature's function to enact, amend, or repeal statutes, appropriate money, audit state and local government finances and programs, or perform any other act delegated to the legislature by the constitution;

(b) any subject in which there is a legitimate use that the legislature can make of the information being sought;

(c) the management of state institutions and public agencies, as defined in 2-6-1002;

(d) matters concerning the administration of existing laws, proposed laws, or potentially necessary laws; and

(e) matters concerning defects in any social, political, or economic system to remedy those defects.

(3) The application and exercise of the legislature's investigative power must protect the rights of all persons and adhere to all state and federal constitutional protections related to privacy, life, liberty, and property.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 687, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 687, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 19, 2023.

5-5-107. Subpoenas — witnesses — records. (1) A subpoena requiring the attendance of any witness before either house of the legislature, a committee of either house, a committee established under legislative rules, or a statutory committee or an interim committee may be issued by the president of the senate, the speaker of the house, or the presiding officer of any committee before whom the attendance of the witness is desired.

(2) A subpoena compelling attendance of a witness is sufficient if:

(a) it states whether the proceeding is before the house of representatives, the senate, or a committee;

(b) it states the legislative purpose for issuing the subpoena;

(c) it is addressed to the witness;

(d) it requires the attendance of the witness at a time and place certain; and

(e) it is signed by the president of the senate, the speaker of the house, or the presiding officer of a committee.

(3) (a) In the discharge of its duties, either house of the legislature, a committee of either house, a committee established under legislative rules, or a statutory committee or an interim committee may issue a subpoena to compel the production of a record that is fixed in any medium and is retrievable from a person that is in possession, custody, or control of the record.

(b) A subpoena compelling the production of a record is sufficient if:

(i) it states whether the proceeding is before the house of representatives, the senate, or a committee;

(ii) it states the legislative purpose for issuing the subpoena;

(iii) it provides a description of the records being compelled for production;
(iv) it is addressed to a person;
(v) except as provided in subsection (3)(c), it requires the production of a record at a date and place certain, but not later than 10 business days from receipt of the subpoena; and
(vi) it is signed by the president of the senate, the speaker of the house, or the presiding officer of a committee.

(c) (i) A person that is served a subpoena to produce records that may include confidential information shall notify the presiding officer that signed the subpoena and submit a written notice of denial and a written explanation for the denial pursuant to 2-6-1009.

(ii) A person served a subpoena under subsection (3)(c)(i), may request additional time to produce the records pursuant to subsection (3)(b)(v).

(4) For the purposes of this section:
(a) "confidential information" has the meaning provided in 2-6-1002; and
(b) "person" has the meaning provided in 2-5-103.

History: En. Sec. 260, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 95, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 79, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 300; re-en. Sec. 79, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-401; amd. Sec. 230, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 687, L. 2023; Sec. 5-5-101, MCA 2021; redes. 5-5-107 by Code Commissioner, 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 687, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

5-5-108. Service of subpoenas. The subpoena may be served by any elector of the state, and the elector's affidavit that the elector delivered a copy to the witness or the person compelled to produce records under 5-5-107(3) is evidence of service.

History: En. Sec. 261, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 96, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 80, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 301; re-en. Sec. 80, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-402; amd. Sec. 231, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 687, L. 2023; Sec. 5-5-102, MCA 2021; redes. 5-5-108 by Code Commissioner, 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 687, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

5-5-109. Contempt — misdemeanor. (1) If a witness neglects or refuses to obey a subpoena or, appearing, neglects or refuses to testify, the senate or house may, by resolution entered on the journal, commit the witness for contempt.

(2) If a person compelled to produce records under 5-5-107(3) neglects or refuses to obey a subpoena, the senate or house may, by resolution entered on the journal, commit the witness for contempt.

(3) A person who neglects or refuses to obey a subpoena under subsection (1) or (2) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable as provided in 46-18-212.

History: En. Sec. 262, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 97, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 81, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 302; re-en. Sec. 81, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-403; amd. Sec. 232, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 687, L. 2023; Sec. 5-5-103, MCA 2021; redes. 5-5-109 by Code Commissioner, 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 687, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

5-5-110. Terminated. Sec. 6, Ch. 523, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 523, L. 2021.

5-5-111. Compelling attendance. Any witness neglecting or refusing to attend in obedience to a subpoena may be arrested by the sergeant at arms and brought before the senate or house. The only warrant of authority necessary to authorize the arrest is a copy of a resolution of the senate or house, signed by the president of the senate or speaker of the house and countersigned by the secretary or clerk.

History: En. Sec. 263, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 98, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 82, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 303; re-en. Sec. 82, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-404; Sec. 5-5-104, MCA 2021; redes. 5-5-111 by Code Commissioner, 2023.

5-5-112. Immunity of witness. (1) A person sworn and examined before either house of the legislature or any committee of the legislature may not be held to answer criminally or be subject to any penalty or forfeiture for any fact or act relating to the required testimony. A statement made or paper produced by the witness is not competent evidence in any criminal proceeding against the witness.

(2) A witness cannot refuse to testify to any fact or to produce any paper concerning which the witness is examined for the reason that the witness's testimony or the production of the paper tends to disgrace the witness or render the witness infamous.

(3) This section does not exempt a witness from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed by the witness during the examination.

History: En. Sec. 264, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 99, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 83, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 304; re-en. Sec. 83, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-405; amd. Sec. 233, Ch. 61, L. 2007; Sec. 5-5-105, MCA 2021; redes. 5-5-112 by Code Commissioner, 2023.

Cross-References

Perjury, 45-7-201.

Part 2
Organization — Interim Committees

Part Cross-References

Legislative Council, Title 5, ch. 11.
Legislative Finance Committee, Title 5, ch. 12, part 2.
Legislative Audit Committee, Title 5, ch. 13, part 2.
Legislative Consumer Committee, Title 5, ch. 15, part 1.
Environmental Quality Council, Title 5, ch. 16.
Committee to prepare arguments for and against ballot issues, 13-27-402 through 13-27-405.
Nomination committee for Commissioner of Political Practices, 13-37-102.
Judiciary Committee — representation on Criminal Intelligence Information Advisory Council, 44-5-501.

5-5-201. Power to administer oaths. The members of any committee may administer oaths to witnesses in any matter under examination.

History: En. Secs. 4 and 5, p. 170, L. 1891; re-en. Sec. 200, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 67, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 65, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 252; re-en. Sec. 65, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-301(part).

5-5-202. Interim committees. (1) During an interim when the legislature is not in session, the committees listed in subsection (2) are the interim committees of the legislature. They are empowered to sit as committees and may act in their respective areas of responsibility. The functions of the legislative council, legislative audit committee, legislative finance committee, environmental quality council, state-tribal relations committee, and local government committee are provided for in the statutes governing those committees.

(2) The following are the interim committees of the legislature:

(a) economic affairs committee;
(b) education committee;
(c) children, families, health, and human services committee;
(d) law and justice committee;
(e) energy and telecommunications committee;
(f) revenue committee;
(g) state administration and veterans' affairs committee;
(h) transportation committee; and
(i) water policy committee.

(3) An interim committee, the local government committee, or the environmental quality council may refer an issue to another committee that the referring committee determines to be more appropriate for the consideration of the issue. Upon the acceptance of the referred issue, the accepting committee shall consider the issue as if the issue were originally within its jurisdiction. If the committee that is referred an issue declines to accept the issue, the original committee retains jurisdiction.

(4) If there is a dispute between committees as to which committee has proper jurisdiction over a subject, the legislative council shall determine the most appropriate committee and assign the subject to that committee. If there is an entity that is attached to an agency for administrative purposes under the jurisdiction of an interim committee and another interim committee has a justification to seek jurisdiction and petitions the legislative council, the legislative council may assign that entity to the interim committee seeking jurisdiction unless otherwise provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-718; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 353, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 565, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 167, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Compensation and expenses when Legislature not in session, 5-2-302.

5-5-203 through 5-5-210 reserved.

5-5-211. Appointment and composition of interim committees. (1) Senate interim committee members must be appointed by the committee on committees.

(2) House interim committee members must be appointed by the speaker of the house.

(3) Appointments to interim committees must be made by the time of adjournment of the legislative session.

(4) A legislator may not serve on more than two interim committees unless no other legislator is available or is willing to serve.

(5) (a) Subject to 5-5-234 and subsection (5)(b) of this section, the composition of each interim committee must be as follows:

(i) four members of the house, three from the majority party and one from the minority party; and

(ii) four members of the senate, three from the majority party and one from the minority party.

(b) Subject to subsection (5)(c), if the committee workload requires, the legislative council may request the appointing authority to appoint one or two additional interim committee members from the majority party and the minority party.

(c) If additional members are appointed, members must be appointed in a manner that reflects the majority and minority composition of the legislature.

(6) The membership of the interim committees must be provided for by legislative rules. The rules must identify the committees from which members are selected, and the appointing authority shall attempt to select not less than 50% of the members from the standing committees that consider issues within the jurisdiction of the interim committee and at least one member from the joint subcommittee that considers the related agency budgets. In making the appointments, the appointing authority shall take into account term limits of members so that committee members will be available to follow through on committee activities and recommendations in the next legislative session.

(7) An interim committee, the environmental quality council, or the modernization and risk analysis committee may create subcommittees. Nonlegislative members may serve on a subcommittee. Unless the person is a full-time salaried officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state, a nonlegislative member appointed to a subcommittee or to the modernization and risk analysis committee is entitled to salary and expenses to the same extent as a legislative member. If the appointee is a full-time salaried officer or employee of the state or of a political subdivision of the state, the appointee is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

History: En. 43-716 by Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1974; amd Sec. 15, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-716(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 596, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 353, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 513, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 527, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 92, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 167, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 432, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 587, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 432, L. 2023, in (5)(a)(i) substituted "three" for the first "two" and substituted "one" for the second "two"; in (5)(a)(ii) substituted "three" for the first "two" and substituted "one" for the second "two"; in (5)(b) at beginning inserted "Subject to subsection (5)(c)"; inserted (5)(c) regarding appointing additional members reflecting the majority and minority composition of the legislature; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Section 3, Ch. 587, L. 2023, in (7) in first sentence after "council" inserted "or the modernization and risk analysis committee" and in third sentence after "subcommittee" inserted "or to the modernization and risk analysis committee"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

5-5-212. Implied resignation of member — vacancies. If an interim committee member misses more than two committee meetings or hearings without just cause when the legislature is not in session, the member is considered to have resigned and the vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Any other vacancy must be filled in the same manner.

History: En. 43-716 by Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1974; amd Sec. 15, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-716(6); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

5-5-213. Officers of interim committees. Each interim committee shall elect its presiding officer and vice presiding officer from among its members. The officers may not be members of the same political party.

History: En. 43-716 by Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1974; amd Sec. 15, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-716(2); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

5-5-214. Interim activity. The interim committees shall perform their functions when the legislature is not in session. The personnel, data, and facilities of the legislative services division and other appropriate legislative entities must be made available to the interim committees.

History: En. 43-716 by Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1974; amd Sec. 15, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-716(3); amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Functional organization and responsibilities of Legislative Council, 5-11-112.

5-5-215. Duties of interim committees. (1) Each interim committee shall:

(a) review administrative rules within its jurisdiction;

(b) subject to 5-5-217(3), conduct interim studies as assigned;

(c) monitor the operation of assigned executive branch agencies with specific attention to the following:

(i) identification of issues likely to require future legislative attention;

(ii) opportunities to improve existing law through the analysis of problems experienced with the application of the law by an agency; and

(iii) experiences of the state's citizens with the operation of an agency that may be amenable to improvement through legislative action;

(d) review, if requested by any member of the interim committee, the statutorily established advisory councils and required reports of assigned agencies to make recommendations to the next legislature on retention or elimination of any advisory council or required reports pursuant to 5-11-210;

(e) review proposed legislation of assigned agencies or entities as provided in the joint legislative rules;

(f) accumulate, compile, analyze, and furnish information bearing upon its assignment and relevant to existing or prospective legislation as it determines, on its own initiative, to be pertinent to the adequate completion of its work; and

(g) review proposed statewide initiatives as defined in 13-27-110 within the interim committee's subject area and vote to either support or not support the placement of the text of the proposed statewide initiative on the ballot in accordance with 13-27-228.

(2) Each interim committee shall prepare bills and resolutions that, in its opinion, the welfare of the state may require for presentation to the next regular session of the legislature. An interim committee may by vote request four bill drafts on a partisan basis and an unlimited number of bill drafts on a bipartisan basis.

(3) The legislative services division shall keep accurate records of the activities and proceedings of each interim committee.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) "bipartisan basis" means a vote in which members from more than one party vote to request a bill draft; and

(b) "partisan basis" means a vote in which members from only one party vote to request a bill draft.

History: En. 43-716 by Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1974; amd Sec. 15, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-716(4); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 554, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 432, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 647, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 432, L. 2023, in (2) at end inserted last sentence regarding requests for bill drafts by an interim committee; and inserted (4) providing definitions of bipartisan basis and partisan basis. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Section 17, Ch. 647, L. 2023, in (1)(g) near beginning substituted "statewide initiatives as defined in 13-27-110" for "ballot initiatives" and at end substituted "the proposed statewide initiative on the ballot in accordance with 13-27-228" for "an initiative on the ballet in accordance with 13-27-202". Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Applicability: Section 62, Ch. 647, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies to statewide ballot issues submitted to the secretary of state on or after [the effective date of this act].

(2) [This act] applies to ballot issues submitted to the county election administrator for approval of the form of the petition required by 7-5-132 on or after [the effective date of this act].

(3) [This act] applies to a petition prepared pursuant to 7-7-2224 that is filed with the election administrator under 7-7-2225 on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective May 19, 2023.

Cross-References

Legislative duty to review rules, 2-4-402.

Committee objection to violation of authority for rule — effect, 2-4-406.

Operating budgets and program transfers — significant changes — report to appropriate interim committee, 17-7-138, 17-7-139.

5-5-216. Recommendations of committees. An interim committee or a statutory committee making a study designated by the legislative council may make recommendations for legislation. These recommendations and a report, if one is written, must be submitted to the legislature as provided in 5-11-210.

History: En. 43-716 by Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1974; amd Sec. 15, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-716(5); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 596, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 210, L. 2001.

5-5-217. Selection and assignment of interim studies. (1) Immediately following adjournment sine die, the legislative services division shall prepare a list of study requests adopted. A copy of the list must be distributed to each legislator with a request that the legislator rank the study requests in the order of importance that the legislator ascribes to them. The lists, with the priorities assigned, must be returned to the legislative services division.

(2) The legislative council shall review the priority lists returned by legislators, review estimated costs and staff assistance associated with the requested studies, and designate those studies to be assigned. In designating studies, the legislative council may combine requests as one study when the subject matter of those requests is closely related. The legislative council shall designate the interim committees and statutory committees to be assigned the studies and shall assign related studies to the same committee.

(3) The legislative services division shall inform the interim committees and statutory committees of those studies that have been selected and to which interim committee or statutory committee each study has been assigned. An interim committee or a statutory committee may recommend to the legislative council that an interim study assigned to that committee should be reassigned to another interim committee or statutory committee or should not be conducted. The legislative council may adopt, reject, or modify the interim committee recommendation.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 596, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 353, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 210, L. 2001.

5-5-218 through 5-5-220 reserved.

5-5-221. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 596, L. 1979.

History: En. 43-717 by Sec. 9, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-717(1), (2).

5-5-222. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 596, L. 1979.

History: En. 43-717 by Sec. 9, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-717(3).

5-5-223. Economic affairs interim committee. (1) The economic affairs interim committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the following executive branch agencies and the entities attached to agencies for administrative purposes:

(a) department of agriculture;
(b) department of commerce;
(c) department of labor and industry;
(d) department of livestock;
(e) office of the state auditor and insurance commissioner;
(f) office of economic development;
(g) the state compensation insurance fund provided for in 39-71-2313, including the board of directors of the state compensation insurance fund established in 2-15-1019;
(h) the division of banking and financial institutions provided for in 32-1-211; and
(i) the divisions of the department of revenue that administer the Montana Alcoholic Beverage Code and the Montana Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act.

(2) The state compensation insurance fund shall annually provide to the committee a report in accordance with 5-11-210 on its budget as approved by the state compensation insurance fund board of directors.

History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 489, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 565, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 576, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Legislative review of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 4.
State Auditor, Title 2, ch. 15, part 6.
Board of directors of state compensation insurance fund — legislative liaisons, 2-15-1019.
Department of Labor and Industry, Title 2, ch. 15, part 17.
Department of Commerce, Title 2, ch. 15, part 18.
Commissioner of Insurance designated, 2-15-1903.
Department of Public Service Regulation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 26.
Department of Agriculture, Title 2, ch. 15, part 30.
Department of Livestock, Title 2, ch. 15, part 31.
Marijuana regulation and taxation, Title 16, ch. 12.

5-5-224. Education interim committee. The education interim committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the following executive branch agencies and the entities attached to agencies for administrative purposes:

(1) state board of education;
(2) board of public education;
(3) board of regents of higher education; and
(4) office of public instruction.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 167, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Legislative review of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 4.
Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2-15-701.
State Board of Education, 2-15-1501.
Board of Regents of Higher Education, 2-15-1505.
Board of Public Education, 2-15-1507.
Local government infrastructure preliminary engineering grants — report by Department of Commerce, 90-6-710.

5-5-225. Children, families, health, and human services interim committee. The children, families, health, and human services interim committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the department of public health and human services and the entities attached to the department for administrative purposes.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 210, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Legislative review of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 4.
Department of Public Health and Human Services, Title 2, ch. 15, part 22.

5-5-226. Law and justice interim committee. The law and justice interim committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the office of state public defender, the department of corrections, the department of justice except for the motor vehicle division pursuant to 5-5-233, and the entities attached to the departments for administrative purposes. The committee shall act as a liaison with the judiciary.

History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 91, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Legislative review of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 4.
Department of Justice, Title 2, ch. 15, part 20.
Department of Corrections, Title 2, ch. 15, part 23.

5-5-227. Revenue interim committee — powers and duties — revenue estimating and use of estimates. (1) The revenue interim committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the Montana tax appeal board established in 2-15-1015 and for the department of revenue and the entities attached to the department for administrative purposes, except the divisions of the department that administer the Montana Alcoholic Beverage Code and the Montana Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act.

(2) (a) The committee must have prepared by December 1 for introduction during each regular session of the legislature in which a revenue bill is under consideration an estimate of the amount of revenue projected to be available for legislative appropriation.

(b) The committee may prepare for introduction during a special session of the legislature in which a revenue bill or an appropriation bill is under consideration an estimate of the amount of projected revenue. The revenue estimate is considered a subject specified in the call of a special session under 5-3-101.

(3) The committee's estimate, as introduced in the legislature, constitutes the legislature's current revenue estimate until amended or until final adoption of the estimate by both houses. It is intended that the legislature's estimates and the assumptions underlying the estimates will be used by all agencies with responsibilities for estimating revenue or costs, including the preparation of fiscal notes.

(4) The legislative services division shall provide staff assistance to the committee. The committee may request the assistance of the staffs of the office of the legislative fiscal analyst, the legislative auditor, the department of revenue, and any other agency that has information regarding any of the tax or revenue bases of the state.

(5) The committee shall review tax credits as provided in 15-30-2303.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 4, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 163, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 399, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 142, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Legislative review of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 4.
Department of Revenue, Title 2, ch. 15, part 13.
Montana Tax Appeal Board, Title 15, ch. 2.

5-5-228. State administration and veterans' affairs interim committee. (1) The state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the public employee retirement plans and for the following executive branch agencies and, unless otherwise assigned by law, the entities attached to the agencies for administrative purposes:

(a) department of administration, except:

(i) the state compensation insurance fund provided for in 39-71-2313, including the board of directors of the state compensation insurance fund established in 2-15-1019;

(ii) the Montana tax appeal board established in 2-15-1015;

(iii) the division of banking and financial institutions; and

(iv) the office of state public defender;

(b) department of military affairs; and

(c) office of the secretary of state.

(2) The committee shall:

(a) consider the actuarial and fiscal soundness of the state's public employee retirement systems, based on reports from the teachers' retirement board, the public employees' retirement board, and the board of investments, and study and evaluate the equity and benefit structure of the state's public employee retirement systems;

(b) establish principles of sound fiscal and public policy as guidelines;

(c) as necessary, develop legislation to keep the retirement systems consistent with sound policy principles; and

(d) publish, for legislators' use, information on the public employee retirement systems that the committee considers will be valuable to legislators when considering retirement legislation.

(3) The committee may:

(a) specify the date by which retirement board proposals affecting a retirement system must be submitted to the committee for the review pursuant to subsection (1); and

(b) request personnel from state agencies, including boards, political subdivisions, and the state public employee retirement systems, to furnish any information and render any assistance that the committee may request.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, Sp. L. December 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 91, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 19, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 41, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 358, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 142, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Legislative review of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 4.
Secretary of State, Title 2, ch. 15, part 4.
Department of Administration, Title 2, ch. 15, part 10.
Department of Military Affairs, Title 2, ch. 15, part 12.

5-5-229. State-tribal relations committee. (1) There is a state-tribal relations committee. Except as provided in subsection (2), the committee is treated as an interim committee for the purposes of 5-5-211 through 5-5-214. The committee shall:

(a) act as a liaison with tribal governments;

(b) encourage state-tribal and local government-tribal cooperation;

(c) conduct interim studies as assigned pursuant to 5-5-217; and

(d) provide recommendations and a report, if one is written, in accordance with 5-5-216 for studies completed by the committee.

(2) The composition of the state-tribal relations committee must be as follows:

(a) six members of the house, three from the majority party and three from the minority party; and

(b) four members of the senate, two from the majority party and two from the minority party.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 432, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 432, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Office of State Director of Indian Affairs, 2-15-217.

5-5-230. Energy and telecommunications interim committee. The energy and telecommunications interim committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the department of public service regulation and the public service commission.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 565, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 2005.

Compiler's Comments

Select Committee — Membership: Section 1, Ch. 579, L. 2023, provided for the membership of the select committee on energy resource planning and acquisition. Effective May 18, 2023, and terminates December 31, 2024.

Select Committee — Duties — Final Report: Section 2, Ch. 579, L. 2023, provided that the select committee on energy resource planning and acquisition shall provide a final report to the energy and telecommunications interim committee. Effective May 18, 2023, and terminates December 31, 2024.

Cross-References

Legislative review of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 4.
Department of Public Service Regulation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 26.
Public Service Commission, Title 69, ch. 1, part 1.

5-5-231. Water policy interim committee. (1) There is a water policy interim committee. The committee shall:

(a) determine which water policy issues it examines;

(b) conduct interim studies as assigned pursuant to 5-5-217;

(c) subject to the provisions of 5-5-202(4), coordinate with the environmental quality council and other interim committees to avoid duplication of efforts;

(d) provide recommendations and a report, if one is written, in accordance with 5-5-216 for studies completed by the committee; and

(e) in accordance with 5-5-215, for issues where the primary concern is the quality or quantity of water, perform the administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions of an interim committee for the following executive branch agencies and the entities attached to the agencies for administrative purposes:

(i) department of environmental quality;

(ii) department of fish, wildlife, and parks; and

(iii) department of natural resources and conservation.

(2) At least two members of the committee must possess experience in agriculture.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 122, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 33.
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Title 2, ch. 15, part 34.
Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.
Environmental Quality Council, Title 5, ch. 16, part 1.

5-5-232. Local government interim committee. There is a local government interim committee. The committee is treated as an interim committee for the purposes of 5-5-211 through 5-5-214. The local government interim committee shall:

(1) act as a liaison with local governments;

(2) promote and strengthen local government through recognition of the principle that strong communities with effective, democratic governmental institutions are one of the best assurances of a strong Montana;

(3) bring together representatives of state and local government for consideration of common problems;

(4) provide a forum for discussing state oversight of local functions, realistic local autonomy, and intergovernmental cooperation;

(5) identify and promote the most desirable allocation of state and local government functions, responsibilities, and revenue;

(6) promote concise, consistent, and uniform regulation for local government;

(7) coordinate and simplify laws, rules, and administrative practices in order to achieve more orderly and less competitive fiscal and administrative relationships between and among state and local governments;

(8) review state mandates to local governments that are subject to 1-2-112 and 1-2-114 through 1-2-116;

(9) make recommendations to the legislature, executive branch agencies, and local governing bodies concerning:

(a) changes in statutes, rules, ordinances, and resolutions that will provide concise, consistent, and uniform guidance and regulations for local government;

(b) changes in tax laws that will achieve more orderly and less competitive fiscal relationships between levels of government;

(c) methods of coordinating and simplifying competitive practices to achieve more orderly administrative relationships among levels of government; and

(d) training programs and technical assistance for local government officers and employees that will promote effectiveness and efficiency in local government;

(10) conduct interim studies as assigned pursuant to 5-5-217; and

(11) provide recommendations and a report, if one is written, in accordance with 5-5-216 for studies completed by the committee.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

5-5-233. Transportation interim committee. The transportation interim committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the department of transportation, the motor vehicle division of the department of justice, and the entities attached to the department of transportation for administrative purposes.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 2019.**

5-5-234. Appointments. (1) (a) Whenever a legislative appointing authority is required or authorized to appoint more than one legislative member of the majority party to a committee, subcommittee, or other statutorily recognized or authorized entity, the appointing authority may appoint a member of a party other than the majority party.

(b) Whenever a legislative appointing authority is required or authorized to appoint more than one legislative member of the minority party to a committee, subcommittee, other statutorily recognized or authorized entity, the appointing authority may, if requested by the minority leader, appoint a member of a party other than the minority party or majority party instead of a member of the minority party.

(2) (a) Whenever an elected state official, as defined in 5-7-102, is required or authorized to appoint more than one legislative member of the majority party to a statutorily recognized or authorized entity, the elected state official may, if requested by the senate president for a senate appointee or if requested by the speaker of the house for a house appointee, appoint a member of a party other than the majority party instead of a member of the majority party.

(b) Whenever an elected state official, as defined in 5-7-102, is required or authorized to appoint more than one legislative member of the minority party to a statutorily recognized or authorized entity, the elected state official may, if requested by the senate minority leader for a senate appointee or if requested by the house minority leader for a house appointee, appoint a member of a party other than the minority party or majority party instead of a member of the minority party.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in the membership of a committee, subcommittee, or statutorily recognized or authorized entity because of the resignation or disqualification of a member appointed under the provisions of subsection (1) or (2), the appointing authority authorized or required to make an appointment to fill the vacancy is subject to the provisions of subsections (1) and (2).

(4) If an individual appointed under subsection (1) or (2) is not a member of either the majority party or minority party and resigns from or is otherwise disqualified from serving, the appointing authority shall fill the vacancy under the provisions of subsection (1) or (2) as if the appointment were an initial appointment, and the appointing authority is not required to fill the vacancy with an individual who is a member of the same party of which the individual whose resignation or disqualification caused the vacancy.

(5) The appointing authority for an interim committee provided for in Title 5 and composed of nine or more members shall appoint members in a manner that reflects the majority and minority composition of the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 432, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 432, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Part 3
Appointments by Governor

Part Cross-References

Senate to confirm appointments made by Governor, Art. VI, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

Senate to confirm judicial replacement nominees, Art. VII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

Senate to confirm appointments to Board of Regents and Board of Education, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; 2-15-1505; 2-15-1507.

Senate to confirm appointment of department heads, 2-15-111.

Senate to confirm appointment of members of quasi-judicial boards, 2-15-124.

Senate to confirm appointment of officers generally, 2-16-203.

Senate to confirm appointments to fill judicial vacancies, 3-1-906.

Senate to confirm appointment filling vacancy resulting from impeachment trial, 5-5-413.

Senate to confirm appointment of Commissioner of Political Practices, 13-37-102.

Senate to confirm appointments to Montana Tax Appeal Board, 15-2-101.

Senate to confirm appointments to Montana Arts Council, 22-2-102.

Senate to confirm appointments to Board of Trustees of Montana Historical Society, 22-3-104.

5-5-301. Governor to transmit list of appointments to legislature. Within 10 days after the convening of the legislature, the governor shall transmit to the legislature a list of all appointments made by the governor under the provisions of 2-16-506 during the recess of the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 371, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 146, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 125, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 381; re-en. Sec. 125, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1302; amd. Sec. 234, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-5-302. Nominations to senate to be in writing. Nominations made by the governor to the senate must be in writing, designating the residence of the nominee and the office for which the person is nominated.

History: En. Sec. 1000, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 356, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 424, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 889; re-en. Sec. 424, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-407; amd. Sec. 235, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-5-303. Resolution of concurrence. Whenever the senate concurs in a nomination, its secretary must immediately deliver a copy of the resolution of concurrence, certified by the president and secretary, to the secretary of state and another copy, certified by the secretary, to the governor.

History: En. Sec. 1001, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 357, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 425, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 890; re-en. Sec. 425, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 59-408.

Part 4
Impeachment

Part Cross-References

Impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13, Mont. Const.
Succession to Office of Governor, Art. VI, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Standards of conduct, Title 2, ch. 2.
Vacancy created in public office, 2-16-501.
Notice of removal of public officer, 2-16-503.
Senate as Court of Impeachment, 3-1-101.
Judicial Standards Commission, Title 3, ch. 1, part 11.
Impeachment of Commissioner of Political Practices, 13-37-105.

5-5-401. Officers liable to impeachment. The governor, executive officers, heads of state departments, and judicial officers are liable to impeachment for felonies and misdemeanors or malfeasance in office.

History: Our present impeachment laws are substantially the same as the territorial acts which provided for trial by the council. See Secs. 41-62, pp. 196-199, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. as Secs. 41-62, 3d Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. as Secs. 41-63, 3d Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1500, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8972, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11668, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 737; re-en. Sec. 11668, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5401, R.C.M. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1973; redes. 95-2801 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2801.

Cross-References

Legislative Auditor to report malfeasance by state officer, 5-13-304.
Bribing members of political gathering, 13-35-220.
Mishandling appropriations, 17-8-103, 17-8-104.
Crimes, Title 45.
Bribery and corrupt influence, Title 45, ch. 7, part 1.
Perjury and other falsification in official matters, Title 45, ch. 7, part 2.
Obstructing governmental operations, Title 45, ch. 7, part 3.
Official misconduct, 45-7-401.
Disorderly conduct, 45-8-101.
State lands — acceptance of improper compensation, 77-1-112.
Punishment for acceptance of improper compensation, 77-1-115.
Misconduct of officers in relation to oil and gas leases, 77-3-409.

5-5-402. Sole power of impeachment. The sole power of impeachment vests in the house of representatives, the concurrence of two-thirds of all the members being necessary to the exercise thereof.

History: En. Sec. 1501, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8973, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11669, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 11669, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5402, R.C.M. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1973; redes. 95-2802 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2802(part).

5-5-403. Trial of impeachments. (1) Impeachment shall be tried by the senate, the court of impeachment, sitting for that purpose. The senators shall be upon oath or affirmation to do justice according to law and evidence.

(2) The court has jurisdiction to try impeachments presented by the house of representatives.

History: (1)Ap. p. Sec. 1501, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8973, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11669, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 11669, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5402, R.C.M. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1973; redes. 95-2802 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; Sec. 95-2802, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 6, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6240, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8786, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 36; re-en. Sec. 8786, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-103, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 7, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6241, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8787, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 37; re-en. Sec. 8787, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 309, L. 1977; Sec. 93-104, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-103, 93-104, 95-2802(part).

5-5-404. Officers of the court. (1) The officers of the senate are officers of the court.

(2) When the governor or lieutenant governor is on trial, the chief justice of the supreme court shall preside.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 8, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6242, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8788, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 38; Sec. 93-105, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1501, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8973, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11669, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 11669, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5402, R.C.M. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1973; redes. 95-2802 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; Sec. 95-2802, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-105, 95-2802(part).**

Cross-References

Officers of Senate, 5-2-221.

5-5-405. Senate subpoenas. A subpoena issued by the senate during an impeachment proceeding has the same force and effect as a subpoena from a district court in a criminal action.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 687, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 687, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 19, 2023.

5-5-411. Articles of impeachment. (1) All impeachments must be by resolution originated in and adopted by the house of representatives. The resolution shall be conducted through the house by managers elected by the house.

(2) The managers shall prepare articles of impeachment, present them at the bar of the senate, and prosecute them.

History: **En. Sec. 1502, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8974, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11670, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 738; re-en. Sec. 11670, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5403, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2803 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2803.**

5-5-412. Delivery of articles to senate. When an officer is impeached by the house of representatives, the articles of impeachment must be delivered to the president of the senate.

History: **En. Sec. 1503, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8975, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11671, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 739; re-en. Sec. 11671, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5404, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2804 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2804.**

5-5-413. Suspension pending trial — filling vacancy. (1) Whenever articles of impeachment against any officer subject to impeachment are presented to the senate, the officer is temporarily suspended from office and cannot act in an official capacity until the officer is acquitted.

(2) Upon suspension of any officer other than the governor, the office must be at once temporarily filled by an appointment made by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate. The term of the appointment is until the acquittal of the party impeached or, in case of the party's removal, until the vacancy is filled at the next election as required by law.

History: **En. Sec. 1516, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8988, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11684, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 751; re-en. Sec. 11684, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5417, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2817 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2817; amd. Sec. 236, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Vacancy and succession — executive office, Title 2, ch. 16, part 5.
Judicial vacancies, Title 3, ch. 1, part 9.

5-5-414. Time of hearing — service of defendant. (1) The senate must assign a day for the hearing of the impeachment and inform the house of representatives thereof.

(2) The president of the senate must cause a copy of the articles of impeachment, with a notice to appear and answer the same at the time and place appointed, to be served on the defendant not less than 10 days before the day fixed for the hearing.

History: **En. Sec. 1504, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8976, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11672, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 740; re-en. Sec. 11672, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5405, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2805 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2805.**

5-5-415. Service — how made. The service must be made upon the defendant personally, or if the defendant cannot upon diligent inquiry be found within the state, the senate, upon proof of that fact, may order publication to be made, in the manner that it considers proper, of a notice requiring the defendant to appear at a specified time and place and answer the articles of impeachment.

History: **En. Sec. 1505, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8977, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11673, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 741; re-en. Sec. 11673, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5406, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2806 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2806; amd. Sec. 237, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

5-5-416. Senate to be sworn. (1) At the time and place appointed and before the senate proceeds to act on the impeachment, the secretary must administer to the president of the senate, and the president of the senate to each of the members of the senate then present, an oath truly and impartially to hear, try, and determine the impeachment.

(2) No member of the senate can act or vote upon the impeachment or upon any question arising thereon without having taken such oath.

History: En. Sec. 1510, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8982, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11678, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 745; re-en. Sec. 11678, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5411, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2811 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2811.

5-5-417. Proceedings on failure to appear. If the defendant does not appear, the senate, upon proof of service or publication as provided in 5-5-414 and 5-5-415, may of its own motion or for cause shown assign another day for hearing the impeachment or may proceed in the absence of the defendant to trial and judgment.

History: En. Sec. 1506, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8978, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11674 R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 742; re-en. Sec. 11674, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5407, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2807 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2807.

5-5-418. Counsel may be appointed. (1) If the defendant appears and is unable to procure the assistance of counsel, it is the duty of the president of the senate to appoint some suitable person to assist the defendant in a defense.

(2) If the defendant is served by publication and fails to appear, it is the duty of the president of the senate to appoint some person or counsel to appear in behalf of the defendant and to make a defense.

History: En. Sec. 1507, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8979, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11675, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 11675, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5408, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2808 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2808; amd. Sec. 238, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-5-419. Defendant's objection or answer. When the defendant appears, the defendant may object, in writing, to the sufficiency of the articles of impeachment or may answer the articles by an oral plea of not guilty. The plea must be entered upon the journal and must put in issue every material allegation of the articles of impeachment.

History: En. Sec. 1508, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8980, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11676, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 743; re-en. Sec. 11676, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5409, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2809 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2809; amd. Sec. 239, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-5-420. Overrule of objection — defendant's plea. If the objection to the sufficiency of the articles of impeachment is not sustained by a majority of the members of the senate, the defendant must be ordered to immediately answer the articles of impeachment. If the defendant pleads guilty, the senate shall render judgment of conviction against the defendant. If the defendant pleads not guilty or refuses to plead, the senate shall, at the time that it designates, proceed to try the impeachment.

History: En. Sec. 1509, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8981, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11677, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 744; re-en. Sec. 11677, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5410, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2810 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2810; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-5-421. Two-thirds vote necessary to conviction. The defendant cannot be convicted on impeachment without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members elected, voting by ayes and noes. If two-thirds of the members elected do not concur in a conviction, the defendant must be acquitted.

History: En. Sec. 1511, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8983, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11679, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 746; re-en. Sec. 11679, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5412, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2812 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2812; amd. Sec. 241, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-5-422. Judgment on conviction — how pronounced. After conviction the senate must, at such time as it may appoint, pronounce judgment in the form of a resolution entered upon the journals of the senate.

History: En. Sec. 1512, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8984, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11680, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 747; re-en. Sec. 11680, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5413, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2813 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2813.

5-5-423. Judgment on conviction — how finalized. On the adoption of the resolution by a majority of the members present who voted on the question of acquittal or conviction, it becomes the judgment of the senate.

History: En. Sec. 1513, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8985, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11681, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 748; re-en. Sec. 11681, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5414, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2814 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2814.

5-5-424 through 5-5-430 reserved.

5-5-431. Nature of judgment. The judgment in the impeachment may be that the defendant be suspended or that the defendant be removed from office and disqualified to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit under the state.

History: En. Sec. 1514, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8986, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11682, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 749; re-en. Sec. 11682, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5415, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2815 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2815; amd. Sec. 242, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-5-432. Effect of judgment of suspension. If judgment of suspension is given, the defendant, during the continuance thereof, is disqualified from receiving the salary, fees, or emoluments of the office.

History: En. Sec. 1515, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8987, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11683, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 750; re-en. Sec. 11683, R.c.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5416, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2816 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2816.

5-5-433. Criminal prosecution not barred. If the offense for which the defendant is convicted on impeachment is also the subject of an indictment or information, the indictment or information is not barred thereby.

History: En. Sec. 1518, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8990, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11686, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 753; re-en. Sec. 11686, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-5419, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 95-2819 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2819.

Cross-References

Crimes, Title 45.
Bribery and corrupt influence, Title 45, ch. 7, part 1.
Perjury and other falsification in official matters, Title 45, ch. 7, part 2.
Obstructing governmental operations, Title 45, ch. 7, part 3.
Official misconduct, 45-7-401.

CHAPTER 6
LEGISLATIVE INTERNS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Legislative Intern Program (Repealed)

Part 1
Legislative Intern Program
(Repealed)

5-6-101. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.

History: En. 43-720 by Sec. 1, Ch. 305, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-720.

5-6-102. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.

History: En. 43-721 by Sec. 2, Ch. 305, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-721; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 224, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 2001.

5-6-103. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.

History: En. 43-722 by Sec. 3, Ch. 305, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-722; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1997.

5-6-104. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.

History: En. 43-723 by Sec. 4, Ch. 305, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-723.

5-6-105. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.

History: En. 43-724 by Sec. 5, Ch. 305, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-724.

5-6-106. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.

History: En. 43-725 by Sec. 6, Ch. 305, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-725; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 225, L. 1995.

5-6-107. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.

History: En. 43-726 by Sec. 7, Ch. 305, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-726.

5-6-108. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.
History: **En. 43-727 by Sec. 8, Ch. 305, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-727.**

5-6-109. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.
History: **En. 43-728 by Sec. 9, Ch. 305, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-728; amd. Sec. 243, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

5-6-110. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.
History: **En. 43-729 by Sec. 10, Ch. 305, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-729.**

5-6-111. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2013.
History: **En. 43-730 by Sec. 12, Ch. 305, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-730.**

CHAPTER 7
LOBBYING

Part 1 — General Provisions — Licenses

5-7-101. Purposes of chapter — applicability.
5-7-102. Definitions.
5-7-103. Licenses — fees — eligibility — waiver.
5-7-104. Repealed.
5-7-105. Suspension of lobbying privileges.
5-7-106. Disclosure of local government lobbying contract — exemption for local government associations.
5-7-107 reserved.
5-7-108. Inspection of applications and reports — order of noncompliance — notification.
5-7-109 and 5-7-110 reserved.
5-7-111. Commissioner to make rules.
5-7-112. Payment threshold — inflation adjustment.
5-7-113 through 5-7-119 reserved.
5-7-120. Full disclosure of public expenditures on federal lobbying.

Part 2 — Registration and Reports

5-7-201. Docket — contents.
5-7-202. Docket — public record.
5-7-203. Principal — name of lobbyist on docket.
5-7-204. Updating docket.
5-7-205. Repealed.
5-7-206. Repealed.
5-7-207. Report to legislature.
5-7-208. Principals to file report.
5-7-209. Payments prohibited unless reported — penalty for late filing, failure to report, or false statement.
5-7-210. Reimbursement.
5-7-211. Governmental responses not lobbying payments.
5-7-212. Audit of lobbying reports.
5-7-213. Renumbered 2-2-106.

Part 3 — Prohibitions — Enforcement

5-7-301. Prohibition of practice without license and registration.
5-7-302. Unprofessional conduct.
5-7-303. Repealed.
5-7-304. Repealed.
5-7-305. Penalties and enforcement.
5-7-306. Civil penalties for delays in filing — option for hearing — suspension of penalty.
5-7-307 through 5-7-309 reserved.
5-7-310. Prohibition of lobbying by former government personnel.

Chapter Cross-References

Control of campaign practices, Title 13, ch. 37.
Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.
Offenses against public administration, Title 45, ch. 7.
Offenses against public order, Title 45, ch. 8, part 1.

Part 1
General Provisions — Licenses

5-7-101. Purposes of chapter — applicability. (1) The purposes of this chapter are to promote a high standard of ethics in the practice of lobbying, to prevent unfair and unethical lobbying practices, to provide for the licensing of lobbyists and the suspension or revocation of the licenses, and to require disclosure of the amounts of money spent for lobbying.

(2) This chapter does not subject an individual lobbying on the individual's own behalf to any reporting requirements or deprive an individual of the constitutional right to communicate with legislators.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-801; amd. Sec. 1, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 568, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 244, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Freedom of speech and expression, Art. II, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

Right of participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

5-7-102. Definitions. The following definitions apply in this chapter:

(1) "Appointed state official" means an individual who is appointed:

(a) to public office in state government by the governor or the chief justice of the Montana supreme court and who is subject to confirmation by the Montana senate;

(b) by the board of regents of higher education to serve either as the commissioner of higher education or as the chief executive officer of a campus of the Montana university system; or

(c) by the board of trustees of a community college to serve as president.

(2) "Business" means:

(a) a holding or interest whose fair market value is greater than $1,000 in a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, self-employed person, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, or other entity or property held in anticipation of profit, but does not include nonprofit organizations; and

(b) present or past employment from which benefits, including retirement allowances, are received.

(3) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of political practices.

(4) "Docket" means the register of lobbyists and principals maintained by the commissioner pursuant to 5-7-201.

(5) "Elected federal official" means a person elected to a federal office, including but not limited to a member of the United States senate or house of representatives. The term includes an individual appointed to fill the unexpired term of an elected federal official and an individual who has been elected to a federal office but who has not yet been sworn in.

(6) "Elected local official" means an elected officer of a county, a consolidated government, an incorporated city or town, a school district, or a special district. The term includes an individual appointed to fill the unexpired term of an elected local official and an individual who has been elected to a local office but who has not yet been sworn in.

(7) (a) "Elected state official" means an individual holding a state office filled by a statewide vote of all the electors of Montana or a state district office, including but not limited to public service commissioners and district court judges. The term includes an individual appointed to fill the unexpired term of an elected state official and an individual who has been elected to a statewide office but who has not yet been sworn in.

(b) The term does not include a legislator.

(8) "Elected tribal official" means an elected member of a tribal council or other elected office filled by a vote of tribal members. The term includes an individual appointed to fill the unexpired term of an elected tribal official and an individual who has been elected to a tribal office but who has not yet been sworn in.

(9) "Individual" means a human being.

(10) "Legislator" means an individual holding public office as a representative or a senator in the Montana legislature. The term includes an individual who has been elected to the legislature but who has not yet been sworn in.

(11) (a) "Lobbying" means:

(i) the practice of promoting or opposing the introduction or enactment of legislation before the legislature or legislators; and

(ii) the practice of promoting or opposing official action of any legislator or the legislature.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) actions described in subsections (11)(a)(i) and (11)(a)(ii) when performed by a legislator, an elected state official, an appointed state official, an elected local official, an elected federal official, or an elected tribal official while acting in an official governmental capacity; or

(ii) federal lobbying as described in 5-7-120.

(12) (a) "Lobbyist" means a person who engages in the practice of lobbying.

(b) Lobbyist does not include:

(i) an individual acting solely on the individual's own behalf;

(ii) an individual working for the same principal as a licensed lobbyist if the individual does not have personal contact involving lobbying with a legislator or the legislature on behalf of the lobbyist's principal; or

(iii) an individual who receives payments from one or more persons that total less than the amount specified under 5-7-112 in a calendar year.

(c) Nothing in this chapter deprives an individual who is not a lobbyist of the constitutional right to communicate with legislators or the legislature.

(13) (a) "Payment" means distribution, transfer, loan, advance, deposit, gift, or other rendering made or to be made of money, property, or anything of value:

(i) to a lobbyist to influence legislation or official action by a legislator or the legislature;

(ii) directly or indirectly to a lobbyist by a principal, such as salary, fee, compensation, or reimbursement for lobbying expenses; or

(iii) in support of or for assistance to a lobbyist or a lobbying activity, including but not limited to the direct payment of expenses incurred at the request or suggestion of the lobbyist.

(b) The term does not include payments or reimbursements for:

(i) personal and necessary living expenses; or

(ii) travel expenses, unless a principal is otherwise required to report expenses pursuant to 5-7-208.

(14) "Person" means an individual, corporation, association, firm, partnership, state or local government or subdivision of state or local government, or other organization or group of persons.

(15) "Principal" means a person who employs a lobbyist or a person required to report pursuant to 5-7-208.

(16) "Unprofessional conduct" means:

(a) violating any of the provisions of this chapter;

(b) instigating action by a legislator or the legislature for the purpose of obtaining employment;

(c) attempting to influence the action of a legislator or the legislature on a measure pending or to be proposed by:

(i) promising financial support; or

(ii) making public any unsubstantiated charges of improper conduct on the part of a lobbyist, a principal, or a legislator; or

(d) attempting to knowingly deceive a legislator or the legislature with regard to the pertinent facts of an official matter or attempting to knowingly misrepresent pertinent facts of an official matter to a legislator or the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 157, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 43-802; amd. Sec. 2, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 568, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 1, 7(1), Ch. 572, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 402, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 6, L. 2021.

5-7-103. Licenses — fees — eligibility — waiver. (1) Any adult of good moral character who is otherwise qualified under this chapter may be licensed as a lobbyist. The commissioner shall provide a license application form. The application form may be obtained from and must be filed in the office of the commissioner. Upon approval of the application and receipt of the license fee by the commissioner, a license must be issued that entitles the licensee to practice lobbying on behalf of one or more enumerated principals. The license fee is $150 for each lobbyist except as provided in subsection (5) or unless the fee is waived for hardship reasons under this subsection. Each license expires on December 31 of each even-numbered year or may be terminated at the request of the lobbyist. A lobbyist who believes that payment of the license fee may constitute a hardship may apply to the commissioner for a waiver of the fee required by this section. The commissioner may waive all or a portion of the license fee upon proof by the lobbyist that payment of the fee constitutes a hardship.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), an application may not be disapproved without affording the applicant a hearing. The hearing must be held and the decision entered within 10 business days of the date of the filing of the application, excluding the date on which the application is filed.

(b) An application may not be approved if a principal has failed to file reports required under 5-7-208.

(3) The fines collected under this chapter must be deposited in the state treasury.

(4) The commissioner shall deposit the license fee provided for in subsection (1) in the general fund.

(5) A lobbyist who receives payments from one or more principals that total less than the amount specified under 5-7-112 in a calendar year is not required to pay the license fee or file an application form as provided for in subsection (1).

(6) The commissioner may adopt rules to implement the waiver provisions of subsections (1) and (5).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 157, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 248, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-803(1); amd. Sec. 3, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 557, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 572, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 26, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Licenses — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-631.
Prohibition of practice without license and registration, 5-7-301.
Discrimination in issuance prohibited, 49-3-204.

5-7-104. Repealed. Sec. 20, Initiative No. 85, 1980.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 157, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 248, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-803(2).

5-7-105. Suspension of lobbying privileges. A lobbyist whose license has been suspended and a person who has been adjudged guilty of a violation of any provision of this chapter may not engage in lobbying until that person has been reinstated to the practice and duly licensed.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 157, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 248, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-803(3); amd. Sec. 4, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4 , 1980; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 572, L. 2003.

5-7-106. Disclosure of local government lobbying contract — exemption for local government associations. (1) A local government shall prominently display on the local government's website the following information regarding contracts for services that would require a person to register as a lobbyist under Title 5, chapter 7:

(a) the contract execution date;
(b) the duration of the contract, including any extension options;
(c) the effective date;
(d) the total amount of money the local government paid in the previous fiscal year;
(e) the identity of all parties to the contract;
(f) the identity of any subcontractor to the contract; and
(g) a list of all legislation advocated for or against by all parties and subcontractors to the contract, including the position taken on each piece of legislation in the prior fiscal year.

(2) In lieu of posting the information required under subsections (1)(a) through (1)(g), the local government may post the contract for lobbying services on the local government's website as long as the contract contains the information specified in subsection (1)(g).

(3) The information required under subsections (1) and (2) must be posted and made available within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year in which the contract is signed. The information must remain posted to the website until the information is required to be updated under this section.

(4) If the local government does not maintain a website, the local government shall provide public notice that contract for lobbying services is available for review by the public at the office of the local government.

(5) At least once a month while the legislature is meeting during each regular session, a local government shall provide a report providing the information required under subsection (1)(g) that is included on the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting of the local government.

(6) (a) Except as provided in subsection (6)(b), a contract between a local government and an organization or association of local government officials of which the local government is a member and to which the local government pays dues for services in addition to lobbying services is not subject to the disclosure requirements under this section.

(b) If a local government pays or donates money in excess of the normal dues for services to the organization or association and the excess money is used to support lobbying services, the excess money is subject to the disclosure requirements under this section.

(7) For the purposes of this section, "local government" has the same meaning as provided in 2-6-1002.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 468, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 468, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 8, 2023.

5-7-107 reserved.

5-7-108. Inspection of applications and reports — order of noncompliance — notification. (1) Each application and report filed with the commissioner must be inspected within 10 days after it is filed. If a person has not satisfied the provisions of this chapter, the commissioner shall immediately notify the person of the noncompliance.

(2) An order of noncompliance may be issued when:

(a) it is determined that an application or report filed with the commissioner does not conform to the requirements of this chapter; or

(b) a person has failed to file an application or report required by law.

(3) The person notified of noncompliance shall submit the necessary information within 5 days after receiving the notice of noncompliance. If the person notified of noncompliance fails to submit the required information within 5 days, the commissioner may initiate a civil action pursuant to the procedures contained in 5-7-305.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 91, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 2003.

5-7-109 and 5-7-110 reserved.

5-7-111. Commissioner to make rules. (1) The commissioner shall promulgate and publish rules necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter in conformance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act and, in particular, shall provide rules necessary to allocate salary, expenses, and any other payments between lobbying activities and other activities not connected with lobbying for any person whose activities are not solely limited to lobbying.

(2) Such rules shall be designed to effect and promote the purposes of this chapter, express or implied. Such rules shall be as simple and easily complied with as possible.

History: En. Sec. 17, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

5-7-112. Payment threshold — inflation adjustment. For calendar year 2004, the payment threshold referred to in 5-7-102(12)(b)(iii), 5-7-103, and 5-7-208 is $2,150. The commissioner shall adjust the threshold amount following a general election by multiplying the threshold amount valid for the year in which the general election was held by an inflation factor, adopted by the commissioner by rule. The rule must be written to reflect the annual average change in the consumer price index from the prior year to the year in which the general election is held. The resulting figure must be rounded up or down to the nearest $50 increment. The commissioner shall adopt the adjusted amount by rule.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 572, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 6, L. 2021.

5-7-113 through 5-7-119 reserved.

5-7-120. Full disclosure of public expenditures on federal lobbying. (1) Each quarter of a fiscal year that a state agency or a local government, as the terms are defined in

2-2-102, makes an expenditure for the services of a lobbyist to lobby an elected federal official or an appointee of an elected federal official, the state agency or local government shall make readily available for public inspection upon request a summary report itemizing each lobbying service provided and how much money was spent for each service.

(2) Each state agency and local government subject to subsection (1) shall:

(a) designate an office from which a copy of the report may be obtained; and

(b) post a copy of the report to the agency's or local government's website on the internet, if the agency or local government has a website.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "expenditure" means a payment by the state agency or local government or a payment by a contractor of the state agency or local government; and

(b) "lobbying" means the practice of promoting or opposing an official action by an elected federal official or an appointee of an elected federal official.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 6, L. 2021.

Part 2
Registration and Reports

5-7-201. Docket — contents. The commissioner shall make available to the public the information required by this chapter, including but not limited to the name and business address of each lobbyist, the name and business address of the lobbyist's principal, and the subject or subjects to which the employment relates or a statement that the employment relates to all matters in which the principal has an interest. The docket entry for each principal must also indicate the date of receipt of the principal's lobbying reports as required by 5-7-208.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 157, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 43-805(part); amd. Sec. 5, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 91, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 245, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-7-202. Docket — public record. Such docket shall be a public record and open to the inspection of any individual upon demand at any time during the regular business hours of the office of the commissioner.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 157, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 43-805(part); amd. Sec. 6, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

Public records generally, Title 2, ch. 6, part 10.

5-7-203. Principal — name of lobbyist on docket. Each principal who employs a lobbyist shall within 1 week after the employment cause the name of the lobbyist to be entered upon the docket. It is also the duty of the lobbyist to enter the lobbyist's name upon the docket. Upon the termination of employment, that fact may be entered opposite the name of the lobbyist either by the lobbyist or by the principal.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 157, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 43-804; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 3, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 246, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-7-204. Updating docket. Any principal employing any lobbyist shall, when further subjects of legislation are introduced or arise which such lobbyist is to promote or oppose, make or cause to be made additional entries in the docket stating such employment so that the docket will show at all times all subjects of legislation in relation to which the lobbyist is employed or the general statement provided in 5-7-201.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 157, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 43-805(2).

5-7-205. Repealed. Sec. 20, Initiative No. 85, 1980.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 157, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 43-805(3).

5-7-206. Repealed. Sec. 20, Initiative No. 85, 1980.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 157, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-806(2).

5-7-207. Report to legislature. Beginning with the first Tuesday following the beginning of any regular or special session of the legislature and on the first Tuesday of every month thereafter during which the legislature is in session, the commissioner shall make available from the commissioner's records a report to each member of each house of the legislature containing the names of lobbyists registered under this chapter, not previously reported, the names of the principals whom they represent as lobbyists, and the subjects of legislation in which each principal is interested.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 157, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 43-805(part); amd. Sec. 7, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

5-7-208. Principals to file report. (1) A principal subject to this chapter shall file with the commissioner a report of payments made for the purpose of lobbying.

A principal is subject to the reporting requirements of this section only if the principal makes total payments for the purpose of lobbying that exceed the amount specified under 5-7-112 during a calendar year.

(2) If payments are made solely to influence legislative action, a report must be made:

(a) by February 15th of any year the legislature is in session and must include all payments made in that calendar year prior to February 1;

(b) by the 15th day of the calendar month following a calendar month in which the principal spent $5,000 or more and must include all payments made during the prior calendar month; and

(c) no later than 30 days following adjournment of a legislative session and must include all payments made during the session, except as previously reported.

(3) If payments are made to influence any other official action by a legislator or made to influence other action and legislative action, a report must be made:

(a) by February 15th of the calendar year following the payments and must include all payments made during the prior calendar year; and

(b) by the 15th day of the calendar month following a calendar month in which the principal spent $5,000 or more and must include all payments made during the prior calendar month.

(4) If payments are not made during the reporting periods provided in subsections (2)(a), (2)(c), and (3)(a), the principal shall file a report stating that fact.

(5) Each report filed under this section must:

(a) list all payments for lobbying in each of the following categories:

(i) printing;

(ii) advertising, including production costs;

(iii) postage;

(iv) travel expenses;

(v) salaries and fees, including allowances, rewards, and contingency fees;

(vi) entertainment, including all foods and refreshments;

(vii) voice or any electronic communication; and

(viii) other office expenses;

(b) itemize, identifying the payee and the beneficiary:

(i) each separate payment conferring $25 or more benefit to any legislator when the payment was made for the purpose of lobbying; and

(ii) each separate payment conferring $100 or more benefit to more than one legislator, regardless of individual benefit when the payment was made for the purpose of lobbying, except that in regard to a dinner or other function to which all senators or all representatives have been invited, the beneficiary may be listed as all members of that group without listing separately each legislator who attended;

(c) list each contribution and membership fee that amounts to $250 or more when aggregated over the period of 1 calendar year paid to the principal for the purpose of lobbying, with the full address of each payer and the issue area, if any, for which the payment was earmarked;

(d) list each official action on which the principal or the principal's agents exerted a major effort to support, oppose, or modify, together with a statement of the principal's position for or against the action; and

(e) be kept by the commissioner for a period of 4 years.

History: En. Sec. 11, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 568, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 91, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 498, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 572, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 250, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 6, L. 2021.

5-7-209. Payments prohibited unless reported — penalty for late filing, failure to report, or false statement. A principal may not make payments to influence official action by any legislator or the legislature unless that principal files the reports required under this chapter. A principal who fails to file a required report within the time required by this chapter is subject to the penalties provided in 5-7-305 and 5-7-306(1). A principal who knowingly files a false, erroneous, or incomplete statement commits the offense of unsworn falsification to authorities.

History: **En. Sec. 12, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 31, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 402, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 6, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Offense of unsworn falsification to authorities — misdemeanor, 45-7-203.

5-7-210. Reimbursement. Whenever a lobbyist invites a legislator to attend a function that the lobbyist or the lobbyist's principal has fully or partially funded or sponsored or whenever a lobbyist offers a legislator a gift, the lobbyist shall, upon request, supply the recipient legislator with the benefit's true or estimated cost and allow the legislator to reimburse. The expenditures must be itemized in the principal's reports with a notation "reimbursed by benefactee".

History: **En. Sec. 13, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 247, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 6, L. 2021.**

5-7-211. Governmental responses not lobbying payments. Budget preparation or response to requests of a house or committee of the legislature by any governmental entity shall not be considered lobbying payments for the purposes of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 14, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980.**

5-7-212. Audit of lobbying reports. (1) The commissioner may audit the reports filed under 5-7-208 and shall investigate any irregularities and report any apparent violations of this chapter to the attorneys having authority to prosecute. The lobbyist is required to provide and the principal is required to obtain and keep for a period of 3 years from the date of filing all records supporting the reports filed under 5-7-208.

(2) All records under subsection (1) must be open to inspection on request of the commissioner or an attorney having authority to prosecute violations of this chapter. The commissioner and the attorneys are given the power to:

(a) subpoena and compel attendance;

(b) issue enforceable civil investigative demands;

(c) take evidence; and

(d) require the production of any books, correspondence, memoranda, bank account statements, or other records which are relevant or material for the purpose of conducting any investigation pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 15, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 91, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 498, L. 1991.**

5-7-213. Renumbered 2-2-106. Code Commissioner, 1995.

Part 3
Prohibitions — Enforcement

5-7-301. Prohibition of practice without license and registration. (1) An individual may not practice as a lobbyist unless that individual has been licensed under 5-7-103 and listed on the docket as employed in respect to all the matters that the individual is promoting or opposing.

(2) A principal may not directly or indirectly authorize or permit any lobbyist employed by that principal to practice lobbying until the lobbyist is licensed and the names of the lobbyist and the principal are entered on the docket.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 157, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-806(part); amd. Sec. 8, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 248, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

5-7-302. Unprofessional conduct. No lobbyist or principal shall engage in or directly or indirectly authorize any unprofessional conduct.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 157, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-806(part); amd. Secs. 9, 10, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 568, L. 1983.**

5-7-303. Repealed. Sec. 20, Initiative No. 85, 1980.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 157, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-806(3).**

5-7-304. Repealed. Sec. 20, Initiative No. 85, 1980.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 157, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 43-807.**

5-7-305. Penalties and enforcement. (1) A person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter is subject to civil penalties of not less than $250 and not more than $7,500 according to the discretion of the district court, as court of original jurisdiction. A lobbyist who violates any of the provisions of this chapter must have the lobbyist's license suspended or revoked according to the discretion of the court. Any legislator adjudged in violation of the provisions of this chapter is additionally subject to recall under the Montana Recall Act, Title 2, chapter 16, part 6, and the violation constitutes an additional basis for recall to those mentioned in 2-16-603(3).

(2) The attorney general, the commissioner, or the county attorney of the county in which the violation takes place may bring a civil action in the name of the state for any appropriate civil remedy.

(3) If a civil penalty action is undertaken by the attorney general or the commissioner, all costs associated with the prosecution must be paid by the state of Montana.

(4) (a) Any individual who has notified the attorney general, the commissioner, and the appropriate county attorney in writing that there is reason to believe that some portion of this chapter is being violated may bring in the name of the state an action (referred to as a citizen's action) authorized under this chapter if:

(i) the attorney general, the commissioner, or the appropriate county attorney has failed to commence an action within 90 days after notice; and

(ii) the attorney general, the commissioner, or the county attorney fails to commence an action within 10 days after receiving a written notice that a citizen's action will be brought if the attorney general, the commissioner, or the county attorney does not bring an action.

(b) Each notification tolls the applicable statute of limitations until the expiration of the waiting period.

(c) If the individual who brings the citizen's action prevails, the individual is entitled to be reimbursed by the state of Montana for costs and attorney fees incurred.

However, in the case of a citizen's action that is dismissed and that the court also finds was brought without reasonable cause, the court may order the individual commencing the action to pay all costs of trial and reasonable attorney fees incurred by the defendant.

(5) A civil action may not be brought under this section more than 3 years after the occurrence of the facts that give rise to the action.

(6) All civil penalties imposed pursuant to this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

(7) A hearing under this chapter must be held by the court unless the defendant-licensee demands a jury trial. The trial must be held as soon as possible but at least 20 days after the filing of the charges and must take precedence over all other matters pending before the court.

(8) If the court finds for the plaintiff, judgment must be rendered revoking or suspending the license and the clerk of court shall file a certified copy of the judgment with the commissioner.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 8, Ch. 157, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 43-808; (2) thru (9)En. Sec. 18, I.M. No. 85, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 91, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 31, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 6, L. 2021.**

5-7-306. Civil penalties for delays in filing — option for hearing — suspension of penalty. (1) In addition to any other penalties or remedies established by this chapter, a person who fails to file a report within the time required by this chapter is subject to a civil penalty of $50 for each working day that the report is late until the report is filed or until the penalties reach a maximum of $2,500 for each late report.

(2) The penalty imposed in subsection (1) is not subject to the procedural requirements of 5-7-305 and must be applied if a person fails to meet the requirements of 5-7-108(3).

(3) A person against whom a civil penalty is imposed pursuant to subsection (1) may request, within 10 days of receiving a notice of imposition of a civil penalty, a hearing before the commissioner. Upon receipt of a timely request, the commissioner shall hold an informal contested case hearing as provided in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6. Upon the filing of a timely request for a hearing, the imposition of the daily civil penalty provided for in this section must

be suspended until the commissioner issues a decision. At the hearing, the commissioner shall consider any factors or circumstances in mitigation and may reduce or waive the civil penalty.

(4) All civil penalties imposed pursuant to this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 31, L. 2003.

5-7-307 through 5-7-309 reserved.

5-7-310. Prohibition of lobbying by former government personnel. (1) An individual may not be licensed as a lobbyist and a principal may not directly authorize or permit lobbying by an individual if during the 24 months prior to applying for a license that individual served as a state legislator, elected state official, department director, appointed state official, or member of a certain personal staff, as defined by 2-18-101.

(2) The prohibition in subsection (1) does not apply to an individual who seeks a license to serve as a lobbyist as part of the individual's responsibilities as an employee of state or local government.

History: En. Sec. 1, I.M. No. 153, approved Nov. 7, 2006.

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Parts 8 through 10 reserved

Part 11 — Broadcasting Services

5-11-1101. Legislative findings and purpose.
5-11-1102. Definitions.
5-11-1103 through 5-11-1110 reserved.
5-11-1111. State government broadcasting — structure and governance.
5-11-1112. Repealed.

Chapter Cross-References

Publication and updating of MCA, Title 1, ch. 11.
Legislative Council to receive copies and revisions of ARM, 2-4-313.
Copy of approved ballot issues to be sent to Legislative Services Division, 13-27-504.

Part 1

Composition — Powers and Duties — Personnel

Part Cross-References

Code Commissioner subject to supervision by Legislative Council, 1-11-203.
Short-term worker — leave time, 2-18-601.
Compensation and expenses, 5-2-302.
Selection and assignment of interim studies, 5-5-217.

5-11-101. Appointment and composition of council. (1) There is a legislative council. Subject to subsection (2), the legislative council consists of:

(a) the speaker of the house, the minority leader of the house, and, subject to 5-5-234, four members chosen by the speaker of the house, two from the majority party and two from the minority party; and

(b) the president of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, and, subject to 5-5-234, four members chosen by the committee on committees, two from the majority party and two from the minority party.

(2) If a legislator is or would be a member of the legislative council by virtue of a legislative leadership position and the legislator will not serve in the following legislative session because of term limits, the legislator may designate another member of the same house and the same political party to serve on the legislative council in the legislator's place.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-709(1); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007.

5-11-102. Term. Membership on the council is for 2 years while the member remains qualified and until a successor is appointed and qualified. Members required to be appointed by leadership under 5-11-101 must be appointed immediately following organization of the senate and the house of representatives as provided in 5-2-212 and 5-2-213.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-709(2); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Time and place of legislative sessions, 5-2-103.

5-11-103. Vacancies. A vacancy on the legislative council must be filled by the selection of another member by the same method as the original appointment.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-709(3); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

5-11-104. Officers — rules of procedure — records. (1) The legislative council shall organize immediately following appointment by electing one of its members as its presiding officer and by electing other officers from among its membership that the council considers appropriate. The presiding officer may not be from the same chamber for more than a 2-year period from appointment. If a party has a majority of both chambers, the presiding officer must be from that party.

(2) The council may adopt rules of procedure, make arrangements for its meetings, and carry out the purpose for which it is created. The council shall keep accurate records of its activities and proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 34, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-715; amd. Sec. 249, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 432, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 432, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

5-11-105. Powers and duties of council. (1) The legislative council shall:

(a) employ and, in accordance with the rules for classification and pay established as provided in this section, set the salary of an executive director of the legislative services division, who serves at the pleasure of and is responsible to the legislative council;

(b) with the concurrence of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, adopt rules for classification and pay of legislative branch employees, other than those of the office of consumer counsel;

(c) with the concurrence of the legislative audit committee and the legislative finance committee, adopt rules governing personnel management of branch employees, other than those of the office of consumer counsel;

(d) adopt procedures to administer legislator claims for reimbursements authorized by law for interim activity;

(e) establish time schedules and deadlines for the interim committees of the legislature, including dates for requesting bills and completing interim work;

(f) review proposed legislation for agencies or entities that are not assigned to an interim committee, as provided in 5-5-223 through 5-5-228, or to the environmental quality council, as provided in 75-1-324;

(g) review proposed statewide initiatives as defined in 13-27-110 and vote to either support or not support the placement of the text of the proposed statewide initiative on the ballot in accordance with 13-27-228; and

(h) perform other duties assigned by law.

(2) If a question of statewide importance arises when the legislature is not in session and a legislative interim committee has not been assigned to consider the question, the legislative council shall assign the question to an appropriate interim committee, as provided in 5-5-202, or to the appropriate statutorily created committee.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 34, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-710; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 596, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 1, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 554, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 647, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 18, Ch. 647, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Applicability: Section 62, Ch. 647, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies to statewide ballot issues submitted to the secretary of state on or after [the effective date of this act].

(2) [This act] applies to ballot issues submitted to the county election administrator for approval of the form of the petition required by 7-5-132 on or after [the effective date of this act].

(3) [This act] applies to a petition prepared pursuant to 7-7-2224 that is filed with the election administrator under 7-7-2225 on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective May 19, 2023.

Cross-References

Legislative Branch employees excepted from state employee classification and compensation plan, 2-18-103.

Legislative Services Division to provide technical and clerical services to Districting and Apportionment Commission, 5-1-106.

Selection and assignment of interim studies, 5-5-217.

5-11-106. Authority to investigate and examine. The legislative services division, on behalf of standing committees, select committees, or interim committees and any subcommittees of those committees, may investigate and examine state governmental activities and may examine and inspect all records, books, and files of any department, agency, commission, board, or institution of the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 34, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-712; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 210, L. 2001.

5-11-107. Powers relating to hearings. (1) In the discharge of its duties, a statutory committee or an interim committee may hold hearings, administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, books, accounts, documents, and testimony, and cause depositions of witnesses to be taken in the manner prescribed by law for taking depositions in civil actions in district court.

(2) If a person disobeys a subpoena issued by a statutory committee or an interim committee or if a witness refuses to testify on any matters regarding which the witness may be lawfully interrogated, the district court of any county shall, on application of the committee, compel obedience by proceedings for contempt as in the case of disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from a district court or a refusal to testify in the district court.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 34, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-713; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Witnesses before Legislature, Title 5, ch. 5, part 1.

5-11-108 through 5-11-110 reserved.

5-11-111. Legislative services division. There is a legislative services division under the direction of an executive director employed by the legislative council under 5-11-105. The executive director may engage personnel and consultants to fulfill the duties of the legislative services division within the limits of appropriations to the legislative services division. The executive director shall fix the compensation of the employees of the legislative services division in accordance with the rules for classification and pay adopted by the legislative council.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 34, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1974; effective date amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-711(1); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.

Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.

5-11-112. Functional organization and responsibilities. (1) The legislative council may establish a functional organization within the legislative services division in order to effectively and efficiently carry out all of the responsibilities delegated to the division by law or legislative rule. The responsibilities of the legislative services division include the following:

(a) document services:

(i) bill drafting and preparation for introduction;

(ii) engrossing and enrolling;

(iii) distribution of legislative bills and information;

(iv) coordination of legislative printing; and

(v) publication of legislative records;

(b) research and reference services:

(i) general and specialized legislative research; and

(ii) legislative reference and information;

(c) legal services:
(i) legal review of draft bills;
(ii) legal counseling on legislative matters;
(iii) legal support for consolidated entities; and
(iv) support for the functions of the code commissioner provided in 1-11-201;
(d) committee services:
(i) research, legal, and administrative staff support for consolidated committees as assigned, including support for interim committees organized under Title 5, chapter 5, part 2; and
(ii) research and legal support for legislative standing and select committees;
(e) broadcasting services, in accordance with Title 5, chapter 11, part 11;
(f) management and business services:
(i) financial records;
(ii) claims and payrolls;
(iii) coordination of procurement of printing, supplies, and equipment; and
(iv) maintenance of property inventories;
(g) personnel and administrative services:
(i) rules for classification and pay; and
(ii) personnel and administrative policies; and
(h) information technology services:
(i) legislative branch network support services;
(ii) application support and development;
(iii) communications support and coordination; and
(iv) information technology planning.

(2) The responsibilities of the legislative services division must be fulfilled collaboratively with consolidated entities whenever the efficient operation of the legislative branch is served.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 34, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 431, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1974; effective date amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-711(2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 608, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 302, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 557, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Predrafting bill history by legislative services division, 5-4-105.

5-11-113 and 5-11-114 reserved.

5-11-115. Renumbered 2-17-805. Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997.

5-11-116. Renumbered 2-17-825. Sec. 9, Ch. 476, L. 1997.

5-11-117 through 5-11-119 reserved.

5-11-120. Legislative branch retirement termination reserve account. (1) There is a legislative branch retirement termination reserve account in the state special revenue fund. Money may be deposited in the account through an allocation of money to the account or as provided in 17-7-304.

(2) (a) The money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the legislative services division to be used only for staff retirement termination pay in the legislative branch.

(b) The money in the account may be expended only with the approval of the appropriate branch division director for eligible termination pay expenditures for division staff.

(3) The account is limited to an amount to be calculated at the beginning of each biennium based on an analysis by branch division directors of the staff eligible for retirement within the biennium. For the 2009 biennium, the limit is set at $400,000.

(4) The money in the account must be invested pursuant to Title 17, chapter 6. The income and earnings on the account must be deposited in the account.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 2007.

Part 2
Dissemination of Laws and Proceedings

Part Cross-References

Duties of Secretary of State, Art. VI, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Effect of Legislature's actions, Title 1, ch. 2, part 2.
Publication and updating of MCA — Code Commissioner, Title 1, ch. 11.
Secretary of State to assist in legislative records management, 2-6-1101.
Custody of legislative acts and records — Secretary of State, 2-15-401, 2-15-406.
Legislative Branch — bills, Title 5, ch. 4.
Tampering with public records or information, 45-7-208.

5-11-201. Journals — how authenticated — filing. The journal of the senate must be authenticated by the signature of the president and the journal of the house of representatives by the signature of the speaker. Each authenticated journal must be filed with the secretary of state. A copy of each authenticated journal must be filed with the legislative services division.

History: En. Sec. 203, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 70, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 68, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 256; re-en. Sec. 68, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 43-304; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 22, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Custody of journals, 2-15-406.

5-11-202. Printing of session laws. The legislative services division shall deliver to the appropriate printer, at the earliest practicable day after the final adjournment of each session of the legislature, copies of all laws and resolutions passed or adopted during the session. The session laws must be delivered to the appropriate printer in the form provided for in 5-11-205 and 5-11-206.

History: En. 43-711.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 96, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-711.1; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 22, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

5-11-203. Distribution of session laws — examination of journals. (1) Immediately after the session laws are published, the legislative services division shall distribute them.

(2) The legislative services division shall make the house and senate journals available for examination or copying by the public as provided in Title 2, chapter 6, part 10. The legislative services division may publish the journals in an electronic format.

(3) The following entities may receive the number of copies of session laws listed at no cost:

(a) to the library of congress, eight copies;

(b) to the state library, two copies;

(c) to the state historical library, two copies;

(d) to the state law librarian, four copies for the use of the library and additional copies as may be required for exchange with libraries and institutions maintained by other states and territories and public libraries;

(e) to the library of each custodial institution, one copy;

(f) to each Montana member of congress, each United States district judge in Montana, each of the judges of the state supreme and district courts, and each of the state officers as defined in 2-2-102, one copy;

(g) to any agency, board, commission, or office of the state, other than a state officer, and to any other subdivision of the state upon request and approval by the legislative council, one copy;

(h) to each member of the legislature, the secretary of the senate, and the chief clerk of the house of representatives from the session at which the laws were adopted, one copy;

(i) to each of the community college districts of the state, as defined in 20-15-101, and each unit of the Montana university system, one copy;

(j) to each county clerk, one copy for the use of the county; and

(k) to each county attorney and to each clerk of a district court, one copy.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1907; re-en. Sec. 155, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 135, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 135, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1937; Sec. 82-2203, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 43-711.2 and amd. by Sec. 4, Ch. 96, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-711.2; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 3, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 22, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

5-11-204. Secretary of state to assign chapter numbers to new laws. The secretary of state shall, when bills passed by any legislature are filed in the secretary's office as directed in 5-4-302 and 5-4-305, note on the bill the date of filing and number the bills, except resolutions, in the order of their reception, chapter 1 and upwards, using Arabic numerals.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 162, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 141, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 141, L. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-2209; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 250, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-11-205. Publication of laws — format. (1) The legislative services division shall publish all laws and resolutions passed or adopted by each session of the legislature in a publication to be known as the Laws of Montana.

(2) Laws of each session must be printed in the Laws of Montana in the order that they have been filed in the office of the secretary of state with the chapter number assigned by the secretary of state as the heading. The chapter number must also appear as part of each page heading. In all laws containing amendments to an existing law, the new parts designated in the act by underlining must be printed in italics in the Laws of Montana and deleted provisions must be shown as stricken. The senate or house bill number may be omitted from each act.

(3) Reference to the laws of a legislative session may be made as follows: "Chapter.... (giving number), Laws of.... (giving the year enacted)".

(4) Resolutions adopted by each session of the legislature must be printed in a separate section of the Laws of Montana with the type of resolution and its number as a heading.

(5) The legislative services division shall also publish in the Laws of Montana the indexes required by 5-11-206.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 17, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 163, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 142, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 142, L. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1939; Sec. 82-2210, R.C.M. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 59, L. 1973; redes. 43-711.3 and amd. by Sec. 5, Ch. 96, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-711.3; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 95, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Publication of Montana Code Annotated, Title 1, ch. 11, part 3.

5-11-206. Index — list. (1) The legislative services division shall prepare a suitable index of all the laws and resolutions passed or adopted at each session of the legislature. The index must be a thorough index of the laws and resolutions and of each subject contained in or covered by the laws and resolutions, together with a cross-index to assist in readily finding any subject contained in each volume. A separate index must be prepared for appropriation bills passed by each session of the legislature.

(2) For the purpose of uniformity in indexes, the index of each succeeding publication of the session laws must conform as nearly as practicable with those of the volumes preceding it.

(3) There must also be prepared for each publication of the session laws a "code sections affected list" showing what sections of the Montana Code Annotated have been amended or repealed by any laws enacted by that session of the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 153, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 44-411; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 95, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

5-11-207. Description of county boundaries included in session laws. The legislative services division shall include in the published session laws a description of the county boundaries of any new counties of the state created by petition and election, commencing with counties created after January 1, 1921, by inserting in each set of session laws new counties that have been created since the publication of the laws of the previous session.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 143, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 143, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-2211, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 43-711.4 and amd. by Sec. 6, Ch. 96, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-711.4; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Creation and organization of new counties, Title 7, ch. 2, part 22.

5-11-208. Expenses. The expenses incurred by the legislative services division in carrying into effect 5-11-202, 5-11-203, and 5-11-205 through 5-11-207 must be paid out of money appropriated for that purpose.

History: En. Sec. 409, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 164, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 144, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 144, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 97, L. 1961; Sec. 82-2212, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 43-711.5 and amd. by Sec. 7, Ch. 96, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-711.5; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

5-11-209. Codes — availability to legislators — reserved for use by legislative committees — state government employees. (1) When it becomes available after each regular legislative session, each legislator is entitled to purchase for $10 each one set of the printed and bound Montana Code Annotated statute text and histories. A legislator is entitled to receive one electronic version of the Montana Code Annotated that is produced for sale to the public on computer-readable media at no charge.

(2) The legislative services division shall reserve 50 sets of the printed versions of Montana Code Annotated statute text and histories for the use of the standing and select committees of the legislature.

(3) A state agency is entitled to order and receive electronic versions of the Montana Code Annotated on computer-readable media for use by state government employees for state work purposes at a cost that is commensurate with the royalty fee charged by a third-party vendor and any associated costs incurred by the legislative services division for administering deployment of the computer-readable media.

(4) Costs associated with providing printed and bound sets and electronic versions of the Montana Code Annotated as required by this section must be paid out of the state special revenue fund account established under 1-11-301.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "state agency" means a department, board, commission, office, bureau, or other public authority of state government.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 412, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 548, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 548, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

5-11-210. Clearinghouse for reports to legislature. (1) An entity required to report to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-222 shall provide to the executive director of the legislative services division:

(a) the final title of the report;

(b) an abstract or description of the contents of the report, not to exceed 50 words, including reference to the statute establishing the required report;

(c) if the report is available electronically, its location on the internet and an electronic copy of the report; and

(d) unless provided electronically in accordance with subsection (1)(c), a paper copy of the report with a recommendation on how many additional hard copies should be printed for the legislature.

(2) The legislative services division may require that a paper copy of a report provided in accordance with subsection (1)(d) be submitted in an electronic format.

(3) Costs of preparing and distributing a report to the legislature, including writing, printing, postage, distribution, and all other costs, accrue to the reporting agency. Costs incurred in meeting the requirements of this section may not accrue to the legislative services division.

(4) The executive director of the legislative services division shall prepare a list of all reports required to be presented to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-222.

(5) (a) The executive director shall, as soon as possible following a general election, provide to each holdover senator, senator-elect, and representative-elect a list of the reports available. Legislators may then request copies of reports included on the list.

(b) The executive director of the legislative services division shall provide either paper copies or electronic copies of reports requested pursuant to subsection (5)(a) by either providing links to electronic copies or by delivering paper copies of the reports during the first week of the legislative session.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 7, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 285, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 126, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 496, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 496, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

5-11-211. Definitions. For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "One complete set" means one copy of each item of the proceedings of a session, regular or special, of the legislature.

(2) "Person" means any person, firm, corporation, or association.

(3) "Proceedings of the legislature" means status sheets, daily journals, reproduced bills, reproduced resolutions, printed bills, printed resolutions, and amendments thereto, together with such other related documents as the legislative council may choose to include.

(4) "Session Laws" for a particular year means the laws and resolutions passed or adopted by that year's session of the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 292, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-901; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 638, L. 1985.

5-11-212. Fees for proceedings. (1) A complete set of the proceedings of a regular or special session of the legislature may be purchased from the legislative services division for the amount prescribed by the legislative council. Upon receipt of payment, the executive director of the legislative services division shall supply the purchaser with a complete set of the proceedings.

(2) A purchaser who requests that a set of the proceedings be mailed shall pay an additional fee as prescribed by the council for each complete set that is mailed.

(3) Single copies of bills, resolutions, or amendments to bills or resolutions may be purchased from the legislative services division for a price varying with the length of the document as prescribed by the legislative council.

(4) Single copies of status sheets or status of proceedings may be purchased from the legislative services division for a price per copy as prescribed by the legislative council. A person may subscribe to receive daily copies of the status sheets or status of proceedings by mail for a fee set by the legislative council to cover the costs of the service.

(5) The executive director of the legislative services division shall account for all funds collected under this section and shall transmit the funds to the treasurer of the state of Montana, who shall credit them to the general fund.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 223, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 292, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-902; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 138, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 638, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

Cross-References

General fund defined, 17-2-102.

5-11-213. Exclusions. Each general circulation newspaper published in Montana and each radio or television station broadcasting in Montana that has registered with the executive director of the legislative services division is exempt from 5-11-212 and shall receive one complete set of the proceedings of the legislature for the ensuing biennium without charge.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 223, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 292, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-903; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 638, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

5-11-214. Exemptions from fees. All elected state officials, state department heads, the state law library, and county clerk and recorders shall be exempted from 5-11-212.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 223, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 292, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 43-904.

5-11-215 through 5-11-220 reserved.

5-11-221. Repealed. Sec. 48, Ch. 19, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1985.

5-11-222. Reports to legislature. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (5), a report to the legislature means a biennial report required by the legislature and filed in accordance with 5-11-210 on or before September 1 of each year preceding the convening of a regular session of the legislature.

(b) If otherwise specified in law, a report may be required more or less frequently than the biennial requirement in subsection (1)(a).

(2) Reports to the legislature include:

(a) annual reports on the unified investment program for public funds and public retirement systems and state compensation insurance fund assets audits from the board of investments in accordance with Article VIII, section 13, of the Montana constitution;

(b) federal mandates requirements from the governor in accordance with 2-1-407;

(c) activities of the state records committee in accordance with 2-6-1108;
(d) revenue studies from the director of revenue, if requested, in accordance with 2-7-104;
(e) legislative audit reports from the legislative audit division in accordance with 2-8-112 and 23-7-410;
(f) the annual performance report of each department to the appropriate interim budget committee and legislative policy interim committee in accordance with 2-12-105;
(g) progress on gender and racial balance from the governor in accordance with 2-15-108;
(h) a mental health report from the ombudsman in accordance with 2-15-210;
(i) policies related to children and families from the interagency coordinating council for state prevention in accordance with 2-15-225;
(j) watercourse name changes, if any, from the secretary of state in accordance with 2-15-401;
(k) results of programs established in 2-15-3111 through 2-15-3113 from the livestock loss board in accordance with 2-15-3113;
(l) the allocation of space report from the department of administration required in accordance with 2-17-101;
(m) information technology activities in accordance with 2-17-512;
(n) state strategic information technology plan exceptions, if granted, from the department of administration in accordance with 2-17-515;
(o) the state strategic information technology plan and biennial report from the department of administration in accordance with 2-17-521 and 2-17-522;
(p) reports from standing, interim, and administrative committees, if prepared, in accordance with 2-17-825 and 5-5-216;
(q) statistical and other data related to business transacted by the courts from the court administrator, if requested, in accordance with 3-1-702;
(r) the judicial standards commission report in accordance with 3-1-1126;
(s) an annual report on the actual cost of legislation that had a projected fiscal impact from the office of budget and program planning in accordance with 5-4-208;
(t) a link to annual state agency reports on grants awarded in the previous fiscal year established by the legislative finance committee in accordance with 5-12-208;
(u) reports prepared by the legislative fiscal analyst, and as determined by the analyst, in accordance with 5-12-302(4);
(v) a report, if necessary, on administrative policies or rules adopted under 5-11-105 that may impair the independence of the legislative audit division in accordance with 5-13-305;
(w) if a waste of state resources occurs, a report from the legislative state auditor, in accordance with 5-13-311;
(x) school funding commission reports each fifth interim in accordance with 5-20-301;
(y) a report of political committee operations conducted on state-owned property, if required, from a political committee to the legislative services division in accordance with 13-37-404;
(z) a report concerning taxable value from the department of revenue in accordance with 15-1-205;
(aa) a report on tax credits from the revenue interim committee in accordance with 15-30-2303;
(bb) semiannual reports on the Montana heritage preservation and development account from the Montana heritage preservation and development commission in accordance with 15-65-121;
(cc) general marijuana regulation reports and medical marijuana registry reports from the department of revenue in accordance with 16-12-110;
(dd) annual reports on general fund and nongeneral fund encumbrances from the department of administration in accordance with 17-1-102;
(ee) loans or loan extensions authorized for two consecutive fiscal years from the department of administration and office of commissioner of higher education, including negative cash balances from the commissioner of higher education, in accordance with 17-2-107;

(ff) a report of local government entities that have balances contrary to limitations provided for in 17-2-302 or that failed to reduce the charge from the department of administration in accordance with 17-2-304;

(gg) an annual report from the board of investments in accordance with 17-5-1650(2);

(hh) a quarterly report from the office of budget and program planning to the legislative finance committee identifying the amount and the type of debt payoff or other expenditure from the debt and liability free account in accordance with 17-6-214;

(ii) a report on retirement system trust investments and benefits from the board of investments in accordance with 17-6-230;

(jj) recommendations for reductions in spending and related analysis, if required, from the office of budget and program planning in accordance with 17-7-140;

(kk) a statewide facility inventory and condition assessment from the department of administration in accordance with 17-7-202;

(ll) actuary reports and investigations for public retirement systems from the public employees' retirement board in accordance with 19-2-405;

(mm) a work report from the public employees' retirement board in accordance with 19-2-407;

(nn) annual actuarial reports and evaluations from the teachers' retirement board in accordance with 19-20-201;

(oo) reports from the state director of K-12 career and vocational and technical education, as requested, in accordance with 20-7-308;

(pp) 5-year state plan for career and technical education reports from the board of regents in accordance with 20-7-330;

(qq) a gifted and talented students report from the office of public instruction in accordance with 20-7-904;

(rr) status changes for at-risk students from the office of public instruction in accordance with 20-9-328;

(ss) status changes for American Indian students from the office of public instruction in accordance with 20-9-330;

(tt) reports regarding the Montana Indian language preservation program from the office of public instruction in accordance with 20-9-537;

(uu) proposals for funding community colleges from the board of regents in accordance with 20-15-309;

(vv) expenditures and activities of the Montana agricultural experiment station and extension service, as requested, in accordance with 20-25-236;

(ww) reports, if requested by the legislature, from the president of each of the units of the higher education system in accordance with 20-25-305;

(xx) reports, if prepared by a public postsecondary institution, regarding free expression activities on campus in accordance with 20-25-1506;

(yy) reports from the Montana historical society trustees in accordance with 22-3-107;

(zz) state lottery reports in accordance with 23-7-202;

(aaa) state fund reports, if required, from the commissioner in accordance with 33-1-115;

(bbb) reports from the department of labor and industry in accordance with 39-6-101;

(ccc) victim unemployment benefits reports from the department of labor and industry in accordance with 39-51-2111;

(ddd) state fund business reports in accordance with 39-71-2363;

(eee) risk-based capital reports, if required, from the state fund in accordance with 39-71-2375;

(fff) child custody reports from the office of the court administrator in accordance with 41-3-1004;

(ggg) reports of remission of fine or forfeiture, respite, commutation, or pardon granted from the governor in accordance with 46-23-316;

(hhh) annual statewide public defender reports from the office of state public defender in accordance with 47-1-125;

(iii) a trauma care system report from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 50-6-402;

(jjj) an annual report on chemical abortion data from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 50-20-709;

(kkk) Montana criminal justice oversight council reports in accordance with 53-1-216;

(lll) medicaid block grant reports from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-1-611;

(mmm) reports on the approval and implementation status of medicaid section 1115 waivers in accordance with 53-2-215;

(nnn) provider rate, medicaid waiver, or medicaid state plan change reports from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-6-101;

(ooo) medicaid funding reports from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-6-110;

(ppp) proposals regarding managed care for medicaid recipients, if required, from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-6-116;

(qqq) reports on toxicology and prescription drug registry information from the suicide prevention officer in accordance with 53-21-1101;

(rrr) suicide reduction plans from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-21-1102;

(sss) annual compliance reports from certifying organizations to the criminal justice oversight council in accordance with 53-24-311;

(ttt) a compliance and inspection report from the department of corrections in accordance with 53-30-604;

(uuu) emergency medical services grants from the department of transportation in accordance with 61-2-109;

(vvv) annual financial reports on the environmental contingency account from the department of environmental quality in accordance with 75-1-1101;

(www) a report from the land board, if prepared, in accordance with 76-12-109;

(xxx) an annual state trust land report from the land board in accordance with 77-1-223;

(yyy) a noxious plant report, if prepared, from the department of agriculture in accordance with 80-7-713;

(zzz) state water plans from the department of natural resources and conservation in accordance with 85-1-203;

(aaaa) reports on the allocation of renewable resources grants and loans for emergencies, if required, from the department of natural resources and conservation in accordance with 85-1-605;

(bbbb) water storage projects from the governor's office in accordance with 85-1-704;

(cccc) upper Clark Fork River basin steering committee reports, if prepared, in accordance with 85-2-338;

(dddd) upland game bird enhancement program reports in accordance with 87-1-250;

(eeee) private land/public wildlife advisory committee reports in accordance with 87-1-269;

(ffff) a future fisheries improvement program report from the department of fish, wildlife, and parks in accordance with 87-1-272;

(gggg) license revenue recommendations from the department of fish, wildlife, and parks in accordance with 87-1-629;

(hhhh) reports from the department of fish, wildlife, and parks on conservation licenses sold and revenue received in accordance with 87-2-201;

(iiii) hydrocarbon and geology investigation reports from the bureau of mines and geology in accordance with 90-2-201;

(jjjj) coal ash markets investigation reports from the department of commerce in accordance with 90-2-202;

(kkkk) an annual report from the pacific northwest electric power and conservation planning council in accordance with 90-4-403;

(llll) community property-assessed capital enhancements program reports from the Montana facility finance authority in accordance with 90-4-1303;

(mmmm) veterans' home loan mortgage loan reports from the board of housing in accordance with 90-6-604;

(nnnn) matching infrastructure planning grant awards by the department of commerce in accordance with 90-6-703(3); and

(oooo) Montana coal endowment program reports from the department of commerce in accordance with 90-6-710.

(3) Reports to the legislature include reports made to an interim committee as follows:

(a) reports to the law and justice interim committee, including:

(i) a report on fentanyl-related mandatory minimums from the attorney general in accordance with 2-15-505;

(ii) findings of the domestic violence fatality review commission in accordance with 2-15-2017;

(iii) the report from the missing indigenous persons review commission in accordance with 2-15-2018;

(iv) reports from the department of justice and public safety officer standards and training council in accordance with 2-15-2029;

(v) reports on district court judge caseload and substitutions from the office of court administrator in accordance with 3-1-713;

(vi) information on the Montana False Claims Act from the department of justice in accordance with 17-8-416;

(vii) annual case status reports from the attorney general in accordance with 41-3-210;

(viii) an annual report from the department of public health and human services on the number of referrals to county attorneys pursuant to 41-3-202(1)(b)(i) in accordance with 41-3-211;

(ix) office of court administrator reports in accordance with 41-5-2003;

(x) reports on pending investigations from the public safety officer standards and training council in accordance with 44-4-408;

(xi) statewide public safety communications system activities from the department of justice in accordance with 44-4-1606;

(xii) the annual report on the activities of the sexual assault response network program and the sexual assault response team committee from the department of justice in accordance with 44-4-1705;

(xiii) reports on the status of the crisis intervention team training program from the board of crime control in accordance with 44-7-110;

(xiv) restorative justice grant program status and performance from the board of crime control in accordance with 44-7-302;

(xv) law enforcement agency facial recognition technology use reports from the department of justice in accordance with 44-15-111(3);

(xvi) reports on third-party vendors providing facial recognition services to state agencies reports in accordance with 44-15-111(4)(b);

(xvii) reports on offenders under supervision with new offenses or violations from the department of corrections in accordance with 46-23-1016;

(xviii) supervision responses grid reports from the department of corrections in accordance with 46-23-1028;

(xix) statewide public defender reports and information from the office of state public defender in accordance with 47-1-125;

(xx) every 5 years, a percentage change in public defender funding report from the legislative fiscal analyst in accordance with 47-1-125;

(xxi) every 5 years, statewide public defender reports on the percentage change in funding from the office of state public defender in accordance with 47-1-125; and

(xxii) a report from the quality assurance unit from the department of corrections in accordance with 53-1-211;

(b) reports to the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee, including:

(i) a report that includes information technology activities and additional information from the information technology board in accordance with 2-17-512 and 2-17-513;

(ii) a report from the capitol complex advisory council in accordance with 2-17-804;

(iii) a report on the employee incentive award program from the department of administration in accordance with 2-18-1103;

(iv) a board of veterans' affairs report in accordance with 10-2-102;

(v) a report on the decennial veterans' long-term care needs study from the department of public health and human services and the Montana veterans' affairs division in accordance with 10-2-903;

(vi) a report on grants to the Montana civil air patrol from the department of military affairs in accordance with 10-3-802;

(vii) annual reports on statewide election security from the secretary of state in accordance with 13-1-205;

(viii) reports on money received in the special account for implementing the Help America Vote Act from the secretary of state in accordance with 13-1-209;

(ix) a report regarding the youth voting program, if requested, from the secretary of state in accordance with 13-22-108;

(x) a report from the commissioner of political practices in accordance with 13-37-120;

(xi) a report on retirement system trust investments from the board of investments in accordance with 17-6-230;

(xii) actuarial valuations and other reports from the public employees' retirement board in accordance with 19-2-405 and 19-3-117;

(xiii) actuarial valuations and other reports from the teachers' retirement board in accordance with 19-20-201 and 19-20-216;

(xiv) a report on the reemployment of retired members of the teachers' retirement system from the teachers' retirement board in accordance with 19-20-732; and

(xv) changes, if any, affecting filing-office rules under the Uniform Commercial Code from the secretary of state in accordance with 30-9A-527;

(c) reports to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee, including:

(i) a report from the department of public health and human services on the programs, grants, and services funded under the healing and ending addiction through recovery and treatment account in 16-12-122;

(ii) Montana foster youth higher education assistance program grant reports from the commissioner of higher education in accordance with 20-26-633;

(iii) prescription drug registry reports from the board of pharmacy in accordance with 37-7-1514;

(iv) Montana HELP Act workforce development reports from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 39-12-103;

(v) reports from the department of public health and human services on the department's efforts regarding the volunteer program to support child protective services activities in accordance with 41-3-132;

(vi) annual reports from the child and family ombudsman in accordance with 41-3-1211;

(vii) reports on activities and recommendations on child protective services activities, if required, from the child and family ombudsman in accordance with 41-3-1215;

(viii) reports on the out-of-state placement of high-risk children with multiagency service needs from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 52-2-311;

(ix) private alternative adolescent residential and outdoor programs reports from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 52-2-803;

(x) provider rate, medicaid waiver, or medicaid state plan change reports from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-6-101;

(xi) a report from the department of public health and human services on home and community-based services provider information in 53-6-406;

(xii) a report concerning mental health managed care services, if managed care is in place, from the advisory council in accordance with 53-6-710;

(xiii) quarterly medicaid reports related to expansion from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-6-1325;

(xiv) annual Montana developmental center reports from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-20-225; and

(xv) annual children's mental health outcomes from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-21-508;

(xvi) suicide reduction plans from the department of public health and human services in accordance with 53-21-1102;

(d) reports to the economic affairs interim committee, including:

(i) the annual state compensation insurance fund budget from the board of directors in accordance with 5-5-223 and 39-71-2363;

(ii) medical marijuana registry reports from the department of revenue in accordance with 16-12-110;

(iii) general marijuana regulation reports from the department of revenue in accordance with 16-12-110(3);

(iv) annual reports on complaints against physicians certifying medical marijuana use from the board of medical examiners in accordance with 16-12-110(6);

(v) an annual report on the administrative rate required from the department of commerce from the Montana heritage preservation and development commission in accordance with 22-3-1002;

(vi) biennial reports from the department of labor and industry on weighing device license fees and cost increases in accordance with 30-12-203;

(vii) state fund reports from the insurance commissioner, if required, in accordance with 33-1-115;

(viii) risk-based capital reports, if required, from the state fund in accordance with 33-1-115 and 39-71-2375;

(ix) annual reinsurance reports from the Montana reinsurance association board required in accordance with 33-22-1308;

(x) reports from the department of labor and industry concerning board attendance in accordance with 37-1-107;

(xi) annual reports on physician complaints related to medical marijuana from the board of medical examiners in accordance with 37-3-203;

(xii) prescription drug registry reports from the board of pharmacy in accordance with 37-7-1514;

(xiii) status reports on the special revenue account and fees charged as a funding source from the board of funeral service in accordance with 37-19-204;

(xiv) unemployment insurance program integrity act reports from the department of labor and industry in accordance with 39-15-706;

(xv) law enforcement agency facial recognition technology use reports from the department of justice in accordance with 44-15-111(3);

(xvi) reports on third-party vendors providing facial recognition services to state agencies reports in accordance with 44-15-111(4)(b);

(xvii) status reports on the distressed wood products industry revolving loan program from the department of commerce in accordance with 90-1-503;

(e) reports to the education interim committee, including:

(i) reemployment of retired teachers, specialists, and administrators reports from the retirement board in accordance with 19-20-732;

(ii) a report on participation in the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children in accordance with 20-1-231;

(iii) grow your own grant program reports from the commissioner of higher education in accordance with 20-4-601;

(iv) reports on out-of-district attendance from the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with 20-5-324;

(v) reports from the education and workforce data governing board in accordance with 20-7-138;

(vi) state-level strengthening career and technical student organizations program reports from the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with 20-7-320;

(vii) a report from the superintendent of public instruction concerning educational programs for eligible children receiving in-state inpatient treatment of serious emotional disturbances in accordance with 20-7-435;

(viii) reports from the Montana digital academy governing board in accordance with 20-7-1201;

(ix) advanced opportunity program reports from the board of public education in accordance with 20-7-1506;

(x) progress on transformational learning plans from the board of public education in accordance with 20-7-1602;

(xi) reports on early literacy targeted interventions from the superintendent of public instruction in accordance with 20-7-1804;

(xii) budget amendments, if needed, from school districts in accordance with 20-9-161;

(xiii) reports regarding the Montana Indian language preservation program from the office of public instruction in accordance with 20-9-537;

(xiv) annual Montana resident student financial aid program reports from the commissioner of higher education in accordance with 20-26-105;

(xv) Montana foster youth higher education assistance program grant reports from the commissioner of higher education in accordance with 20-26-633;

(xvi) a historic preservation office report from the historic preservation officer in accordance with 22-3-423; and

(xvii) interdisciplinary child information agreement reports from the office of public instruction in accordance with 52-2-211;

(f) reports to the energy and telecommunications interim committee, including:

(i) the high-performance building report from the department of administration in accordance with 17-7-214;

(ii) an annual report from the consumer counsel in accordance with 69-1-222;

(iii) annual universal system benefits reports from utilities, electric cooperatives, and the department of revenue in accordance with 69-8-402;

(iv) small-scale hydroelectric power generation reports from the department of natural resources and conservation in accordance with 85-1-501; and

(v) geothermal reports from the Montana bureau of mines and geology in accordance with 90-3-1301;

(g) reports to the revenue interim committee, including:

(i) use of the qualified endowment tax credit report from the department of revenue in accordance with 15-1-230;

(ii) tax rates for the upcoming reappraisal cycle from the department of revenue in accordance with 15-7-111;

(iii) information about job growth incentive tax credits from the department of revenue in accordance with 15-30-2361;

(iv) student scholarship contributions from the department of revenue in accordance with 15-30-3112;

(v) media production tax credit economic impact reports from the department of commerce in accordance with 15-31-1011; and

(vi) reports that actual or projected receipts will result in less revenue than estimated from the office of budget and program planning, if necessary, in accordance with 17-7-140;

(h) reports to the transportation interim committee, including:

(i) biodiesel tax refunds from the department of transportation in accordance with 15-70-433;

(ii) cooperative agreement negotiations from the department of transportation in accordance with 15-70-450; and

(iii) a special fuels inspection report from the department of transportation in accordance with 61-10-154;

(i) reports to the environmental quality council, including:

(i) compliance and enforcement reports required in accordance with 75-1-314;

(ii) the state solid waste management and resource recovery plan, every 5 years, from the department of environmental quality in accordance with 75-10-111;

(iii) annual orphan share reports from the department of environmental quality in accordance with 75-10-743;

(iv) Libby asbestos superfund oversight committee reports in accordance with 75-10-1601;

(v) annual subdivision sanitation reports from the department of environmental quality in accordance with 76-4-116;

(vi) quarterly reports from the department of environmental quality on the number and percentage of overdue files in accordance with 76-4-116;

(vii) state trust land accessibility reports from the department of natural resources and conservation in accordance with 77-1-820;

(viii) biennial land banking reports and annual state land cabin and home site sales reports from the department of natural resources and conservation in accordance with 77-2-366;

(ix) biennially invasive species reports from the departments of fish, wildlife, and parks and natural resources and conservation in accordance with 80-7-1006;

(x) annual invasive species council reports in accordance with 80-7-1203;

(xi) sand and gravel reports, if an investigation is completed, in accordance with 82-2-701;

(xii) reports from the western Montana conservation commission in accordance with 85-1-904;

(xiii) annual sage grouse population reports from the department of fish, wildlife, and parks in accordance with 87-1-201;

(xiv) annual gray wolf management reports from the department of fish, wildlife, and parks in accordance with 87-1-901;

(xv) biennial Tendoy Mountain sheep herd reports from the department of fish, wildlife, and parks in accordance with 87-2-702;

(xvi) wildlife habitat improvement project reports from the department of fish, wildlife, and parks in accordance with 87-5-807; and

(xvii) annual sage grouse oversight team activities and staffing reports in accordance with 87-5-918;

(j) reports to the water policy interim committee, including:

(i) drought and water supply advisory committee reports in accordance with 2-15-3308;

(ii) total maximum daily load reports from the department of environmental quality in accordance with 75-5-703;

(iii) state water plans from the department of natural resources and conservation in accordance with 85-1-203;

(iv) small-scale hydroelectric power generation reports from the department of natural resources and conservation in accordance with 85-1-501;

(v) renewable resource grant and loan program reports from the department of natural resources and conservation in accordance with 85-1-621;

(vi) reports from the western Montana conservation commission in accordance with 85-1-904;

(vii) quarterly adjudication reports from the department of natural resources and conservation and the water court in accordance with 85-2-281;

(viii) water reservation reports from the department of natural resources and conservation in accordance with 85-2-316;

(ix) instream flow reports from the department of fish, wildlife, and parks in accordance with 85-2-436; and

(x) ground water investigation program reports from the bureau of mines and geology in accordance with 85-2-525;

(k) reports to the local government interim committee, including:

(i) reports from the local government center on petitions received that resulted in the development and delivery of training in accordance with 7-1-206;

(ii) sand and gravel, if an investigation is completed, in accordance with 82-2-701;

(iii) assistance to local governments on federal land management proposals from the department of commerce in accordance with 90-1-182; and

(iv) emergency financial assistance to local government reports from the department of commerce, if requests are made, in accordance with 90-6-703(2);

(l) reports to the state-tribal relations committee, including:

(i) reports from the missing indigenous persons review commission in accordance with 2-15-2018;

(ii) the Montana Indian language preservation program report from the office of public instruction in accordance with 20-9-537;

(iii) reports from the missing indigenous persons task force in accordance with 44-2-411;

(iv) a report from the department of justice on missing persons response team training grants awarded in accordance with 44-2-416;

(v) state-tribal economic development commission activities reports from the state-tribal economic development commission in accordance with 90-1-132; and

(vi) state-tribal economic development commission reports provided regularly by the state director of Indian affairs in accordance with 90-11-102.

(4) Reports to the legislature include multistate compact and agreement reports, including:

(a) multistate tax compact reports in accordance with 15-1-601;

(b) interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children reports in accordance with 20-1-230 and 20-1-231;

(c) compact for education reports in accordance with 20-2-501;

(d) Western regional higher education compact reports in accordance with 20-25-801;

(e) interstate insurance product regulation compact reports in accordance with 33-39-101;

(f) interstate medical licensure compact reports in accordance with 37-3-356;

(g) interstate compact on juveniles reports in accordance with 41-6-101;

(h) interstate compact for adult offender supervision reports in accordance with 46-23-1115;

(i) vehicle equipment safety compact reports in accordance with 61-2-201;

(j) multistate highway transportation agreement reports in accordance with 61-10-1101; and

(k) western interstate nuclear compact reports in accordance with 90-5-201.

(5) Reports, transfers, statements, assessments, recommendations and changes required under 17-7-138, 17-7-139, 17-7-140, 19-2-405, 19-2-407, 19-3-117, 19-20-201, 19-20-216, 23-7-202, 33-1-115, and 39-71-2375 must be provided as soon as the report is published and publicly available. Reports required in subsections (2)(a), (2)(gg), (2)(ii), and (3)(b)(xi) must be provided following issuance of reports issued under Title 5, chapter 13.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 139, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 165, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 2023, Sec. 19, Ch. 166, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 496, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 712, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 760, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 8, Ch. 165, L. 2023, inserted (3)(a)(xii) concerning sexual assault response report from department of justice. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 166, L. 2023, in (2)(oooo) substituted "Montana coal endowment program" for "treasure state endowment program". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 496, L. 2023, deleted former (4) (see sec. 2, Ch. 496, L. 2023, for former text); and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 712, L. 2023, in (2)(cc) after "general marijuana regulation reports" inserted "and medical marijuana registry reports"; deleted former (2)(cc) that read: "(cc) medical marijuana registry reports from the department of revenue in accordance with 16-12-532(3)"; in (3)(d)(ii) and (3)(d)(iv) substituted references to 16-12-110 for references to 16-12-532; deleted former (3)(g)(viii) and (3)(g)(ix) that read: "(viii) medical marijuana registry reports from the department of revenue in accordance with 16-12-532(5);

(ix) complaints against physicians certifying use of medical marijuana from the board of medical examiners in accordance with 16-12-532(5)"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Directions to Code Commissioner: Pursuant to sec. 19, Ch. 166, L. 2023, in this section the Code Commissioner added references to new reports enacted in other chapters from the 2023 legislative session in subsections (2)(f), (2)(hh), (2)(jjj), (2)(qqq), (2)(sss), (2)(hhhh), (3)(a)(i), (3)(a)(v), (3)(a)(viii), (3)(a)(x), (3)(a)(xv), (3)(a)(xvi), (3)(b)(v), (3)(b)(viii), (3)(c)(i), (3)(c)(ii), (3)(c)(v), (3)(c)(xi), (3)(d)(vi), (3)(d)(xv), (3)(d)(xvi), (3)(e)(iv), (3)(e)(v), (3)(e)(vi), (3)(e)(vii), (3)(e)(viii), (3)(e)(xi), (3)(e)(xiii), (3)(e)(xv), (3)(i)(vi), (3)(i)(xii), (3)(j)(vi), (3)(k)(i), and (3)(l)(iv).

Pursuant to sec. 19, Ch. 166, L. 2023, in this section the Code Commissioner removed references to reports deleted or repealed in other chapters from the 2023 legislative session in former subsections (2)(zz), (2)(jjj), (2)(uuu), (2)(gggg), (3)(c)(ii), (3)(c)(ix), (3)(e)(iv), (3)(g)(iii), (3)(g)(vi), (3)(h)(iii), (3)(i)(ix), and (3)(l)(iv). See 2021 MCA for former text.

Pursuant to sec. 10, Ch. 760, L. 2023, the Code Commissioner deleted the reference in former subsection (3)(c)(i) to performance data required by 2-15-2225.

Part 3
Interstate, International, and Intergovernmental Cooperation

5-11-301. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 232, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 82-2112; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 8, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 630, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 349, L. 2001.

5-11-302. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 72, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 82-2113.

5-11-303. Definitions. For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Intergovernmental entity" means an organization, committee, delegation, or association of local, state, tribal, regional, or international governmental bodies.

(2) "International entity" means an organization, committee, delegation, or association that fosters and encourages cooperation, information exchange, or relations among nations.

(3) "Interstate entity" means an organization, committee, delegation, or association that fosters and encourages cooperation, information exchange, or relations among states.

(4) "Member" or "membership" means the authority to represent the Montana legislature for voting purposes in an interstate, international, or intergovernmental entity.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 2003.

5-11-304. Legislative council's role in interstate, international, and intergovernmental cooperation. The legislative council shall:

(1) encourage the state of Montana to develop and maintain mutually constructive contact and relations with interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities;

(2) promote mutually beneficial exchanges of information between the state of Montana and interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities;

(3) endeavor to advance cooperation between the state of Montana and interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities; and

(4) facilitate participation of the state of Montana as a member of appropriate interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 2003.

5-11-305. Legislative council appointments to interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities. (1) Unless otherwise provided by law, the legislative council shall appoint legislators to serve as members of appropriate interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities.

(2) The president of the senate, the speaker of the house, the minority leader of the senate, and the minority leader of the house may recommend nominees for the legislative council's consideration in making appointments to interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities.

(3) If the legislative council appoints more than one legislator to participate as a member in an interstate, international, or intergovernmental entity, the number of legislators appointed from the majority party and the minority party must be equal.

(4) If funds are available that the legislative council has the authority to expend, the legislative council, as the appropriate funding authority, may authorize that a legislator appointed as a member to an interstate, international, or intergovernmental entity be compensated, as provided in 5-2-302, for salary and expenses associated with participating in an entity-sponsored activity.

(5) If a vacancy occurs in membership to an interstate, international, or intergovernmental entity, appointment to fill the vacancy must be made in the same manner as the original appointment.

(6) The legislative council shall make appointments to any policy committee established by the Pacific Northwest economic region as provided in 5-11-707(2).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 232, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007.

Part 4
Information Technology Planning

5-11-401. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part to establish a mechanism for information technology planning encompassing broad policy needs, long-term direction for information systems use, and the effective implementation of a detailed plan for the legislative branch. It is the purpose of the plan to ensure coordination of information system decisions so that the overall effectiveness of the senate, the house of representatives, and legislative agencies may be improved. It is the further purpose of the plan to enhance the coordination of legislative branch systems with executive branch systems whenever possible.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 687, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 284, L. 2013.

5-11-402. Legislative branch information technology planning council. There is a legislative branch information technology planning council composed of:

(1) the secretary of the senate;

(2) one representative of the senate designated by the president;

(3) the chief clerk of the house of representatives;

(4) one representative of the house designated by the speaker;

(5) the executive director of the legislative services division, who shall chair the planning council;

(6) the legislative auditor;

(7) the legislative fiscal analyst;

(8) the consumer counsel;

(9) the chief information officer of the legislative branch; and

(10) a person designated by the director of the department of administration to represent the information technology responsibilities of the department, who shall serve as a nonvoting member of the planning council.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 687, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 250, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 284, L. 2013.**

5-11-403. Duties of legislative branch information technology planning council. The legislative branch information technology planning council shall develop and maintain a legislative branch information technology plan. In developing and maintaining this plan, the planning council shall:

(1) approve and validate the branch enterprise architecture program that includes principles to maintain alignment with evolving business and technology needs;

(2) continuously review analyses of existing and alternate information systems to identify candidates for automation, modernization, enhancement, improvement, or integration with new applications to support evolving legislative branch needs or functions;

(3) include in the plan a description of functions and services in the legislative branch and its agencies that would benefit from the application or improvement of information technology to provide better service to members of the legislature, legislative agencies, and the public;

(4) prioritize information technology initiatives, taking into consideration expected effectiveness, probable cost, and alignment with the enterprise architecture principles;

(5) adopt technology standards within the enterprise architecture program that are appropriate to the business needs and technical environment of the legislative branch and its agencies; and

(6) consider information technology support of security, disaster recovery, and continuity of government.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 687, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 284, L. 2013.**

5-11-404. Technical support. (1) The executive director of the legislative services division shall provide technical staff support to the legislative branch information technology planning council. In performing this duty, the legislative services division shall assist the planning council by:

(a) developing and maintaining an enterprise architecture program to include:

(i) enterprise architecture principles and technology standards that are aligned with business needs;

(ii) decisionmaking processes that guide the application of the principles; and

(iii) a repository of business and technical information to support sound decisions;

(b) developing analyses of existing and alternate systems to identify candidates for automation, modernization, or enhancement;

(c) assisting in assessing benefits and costs of alternate solutions;

(d) apprising the planning council of developments and trends in the technology industry;

(e) maintaining a liaison with and informing the planning council of plans and directions within the executive branch;

(f) selecting and purchasing supplies and equipment that support the enterprise architecture principles adopted by the planning council;

(g) providing information and advice regarding information technology support of security, disaster recovery, and continuity of government; and

(h) providing other assistance as may be requested.

(2) The executive director shall encourage participation of appropriate personnel of the senate, the house of representatives, and other legislative entities in the provision of technical support.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 687, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 284, L. 2013.

5-11-405. Legislative branch information technology plan — adoption. The legislative branch information technology plan is a biennial plan that reflects the budget proposals for the next biennium that must be approved and adopted by the legislative council.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 687, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 284, L. 2013.

5-11-406. Legislative branch systems — conformity to standards. Information technology systems installed by the senate, the house of representatives, and legislative branch agencies must conform to standards established by the legislative branch for the enterprise architecture in effect at the time the purchasing decision is made.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 687, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 284, L. 2013.

5-11-407. Legislative branch reserve account. (1) There is a legislative branch reserve account in the state special revenue fund. Money may be deposited in the account through an allocation of money to the account or as provided in 17-7-304.

(2) (a) The money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the legislative services division to be used only for major legislative branch information technology projects, including the purchase of hardware, software, and consulting services for and training related to new initiatives and replacement and upgrading of existing systems.

(b) The money in the account may be expended only with the approval of the legislative council. The legislative branch information technology planning council may make recommendations to the legislative council for the use of the money in the account.

(3) The money in the account must be invested pursuant to Title 17, chapter 6. The income and earnings on the account must be deposited in the account.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 581, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 284, L. 2013.

Parts 5 and 6 reserved

Part 7
Pacific Northwest Economic Region

5-11-701. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 630, L. 1991.

5-11-702. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 630, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1995.

5-11-703. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 630, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 1995.

5-11-704. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 630, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1995.

5-11-705. Legislative findings. (1) The legislature finds that there is a new emerging global economy in which countries and regions located in specific areas of the world are forging new cooperative arrangements.

(2) The legislature finds that these new cooperative arrangements are increasing the competitiveness of the participating countries and regions, thus increasing the economic benefits and the overall quality of life for the citizens of the individual countries and regions.

(3) The legislature also finds that the Pacific Northwest states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory of Canada are in a strategic position to act together as a region, thus increasing the overall competitiveness of the individual states, provinces, and territory that will provide substantial economic benefits for all of their citizens.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 2001.

5-11-706. Participation in Pacific Northwest economic region. The Pacific Northwest economic region is hereby enacted into law and entered into by the state of Montana as a party and is in full force and effect in accordance with the terms of this agreement.

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION

ARTICLE I — Policy and Purpose

(1) States, provinces, and territories participating in the Pacific Northwest economic region shall seek to develop and establish policies that:

(a) promote greater regional collaboration among the eight entities;

(b) enhance the overall competitiveness of the region in international and domestic markets;

(c) increase the economic well-being of all citizens in the region; and

(d) improve the quality of life of the citizens of the Pacific Northwest.

(2) (a) States, provinces, and territories recognize that there are many public policy areas in which cooperation and joint efforts would be mutually beneficial. These areas include but are not limited to:

(i) international trade;

(ii) economic development;

(iii) human resources;

(iv) the environment and natural resources;

(v) energy; and

(vi) education.

(b) Parties to this agreement shall work diligently to establish collaborative activity in these and other appropriate policy areas in which cooperation is considered to be worthwhile and of benefit to the participating entities.

(c) Participating states, provinces, and territories also agree that there are areas in which cooperation may not be feasible.

(3) The substantive actions of the Pacific Northwest economic region may take the form of uniform legislation enacted by two or more states, provinces, or territories or policy initiatives endorsed as appropriate by participating entities. It is not necessary for all states, provinces, and territories to participate in each initiative.

ARTICLE II — Eligible Parties and Effective Date

(1) Each of the following states, provinces, and territory is eligible to become a party to this agreement: Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Yukon.

(2) This agreement establishing the Pacific Northwest economic region becomes effective when it is executed by one state, one province, and one additional state, province, or territory in a form considered appropriate by each entity.

(3) This agreement continues in force and remains binding upon each of the states, provinces, and territories entering into it until renounced by the state, province, or territory.

(4) Renunciation of this agreement must be preceded by sending 1 year's notice in writing of intention to withdraw from the agreement to all other parties to the agreement.

ARTICLE III — Organizational Structure

(1) Each state, province, and territory participating in this agreement shall appoint representatives to the Pacific Northwest economic region.

(2) The organizational structure of the Pacific Northwest economic region consists of the following:

(a) a delegate council consisting of the governor or a designee and four legislators from each participating state and four representatives from each participating province and territory; and

(b) an executive committee consisting of one legislator from each participating state, province, or territory who is a member of the delegate council and four of the governors, premiers, or commissioners or their designees.

(3) Policy committees may be established to carry out further duties and responsibilities of the Pacific Northwest economic region.

ARTICLE IV — Duties and Responsibilities

(1) The delegate council has the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) facilitate the involvement of other government officials in the development and implementation of specific collaborative initiatives;

(b) work with policymaking committees in the development and implementation of specific initiatives;

(c) approve general organizational policies developed by the executive committee;

(d) provide final approval of the annual budget and staffing structure for the Pacific Northwest economic region developed by the executive committee; and

(e) other duties and responsibilities established in the rules and regulations of the Pacific Northwest economic region.

(2) The executive committee shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) elect the president and vice president of the Pacific Northwest economic region;

(b) approve and implement general organizational policies;

(c) develop the annual budget;

(d) devise the annual action plan;

(e) act as liaison with other public and private sector entities; and

(f) other duties and responsibilities established in the rules and regulations of the Pacific Northwest economic region.

(3) The rules and regulations of the Pacific Northwest economic region must establish the procedure for voting.

ARTICLE V — Membership of Policy Committees

(1) Policy committees dealing with specific subject matter may be established by the executive committee.

(2) Each participating state, province, and territory shall appoint legislators to sit on these policy committees in accordance with its own rules and regulations concerning appointments.

This agreement may not be construed to limit the powers of any state, province, or territory or to repeal or prevent the enactment of any legislation.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 2001.

5-11-707. Appointment to Pacific Northwest economic region — vacancy. (1) Pursuant to 5-11-706, Article III, the governor or a designee and four legislators must be appointed to the delegate council of the Pacific Northwest economic region. The legislative members are appointed as follows:

(a) one member to be appointed by the president of the senate;

(b) one member to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(c) one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and

(d) one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

(2) If the Pacific Northwest economic region establishes policy committees under 5-11-706, Article V, appointments of legislators to the policy committees are to be made by the legislative council as provided in 5-11-305.

(3) In the event that a vacancy occurs, appointment to fill the vacancy must be made in the same manner as the original appointment.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 232, L. 2003.

5-11-708. Compensation of certain appointees to Pacific Northwest economic region. Legislative members appointed to the Pacific Northwest economic region under 5-11-707 are entitled to compensation as provided in 5-2-302.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 349, L. 2001.

Parts 8 through 10 reserved

Part 11
Broadcasting Services

5-11-1101. Legislative findings and purpose. The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) the purpose of a state-funded public affairs broadcasting program is to provide Montana citizens with increased access to unbiased information about state government deliberations and public policy events through unedited television coverage and other communications technologies; and

(2) the preferred means of establishing and maintaining a state-funded public affairs broadcasting program is to assign the enabling responsibilities to the legislative council and the division to contract with a qualified operator through a competitive bidding process. If a qualified operator is not found, the division may become the operator and operate within the existing appropriation until a qualified operator is hired under a subsequent request for proposals. The division may not be the sole operator on a permanent basis but shall seek to maintain a partnership with an outside operator. The division shall issue a request for proposals before the end of any biennium during which the division serves as a temporary operator. Any scoring and review team for the requested proposals must include a member of the majority party and a member of the minority party who are members of the legislative council.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 557, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 2017.**

5-11-1102. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Broadcasting" means any application of communication technologies to deliver live or delayed programming to a viewing audience, including but not limited to over-the-air television broadcasts, cable television, and the streaming of audio or video signals over the internet.

(2) "Division" means the legislative services division provided for in 5-11-111.

(3) "Gavel-to-gavel coverage" means that any broadcast of legislative or administrative proceedings is activated when the presiding officer of a floor session or a committee meeting calls the body to order and is deactivated on adjournment.

(4) "Operator" means:

(a) a private, nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; or

(b) a public or private Montana institution of higher education that has a program related to video production or broadcast or a related field.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 557, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 257, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 183, L. 2017.**

5-11-1103 through 5-11-1110 reserved.

5-11-1111. State government broadcasting — structure and governance. (1) There is a state government broadcasting service administered by the division. The division shall:

(a) develop and issue a request for proposals for the production of gavel-to-gavel coverage of legislative and administrative proceedings as well as other public affairs programming that is approved by the legislative council;

(b) evaluate proposals and, on the basis of selection criteria established by the division and if an acceptable proposal is received, execute a contract for services with the most qualified operator; and

(c) coordinate with executive branch and judicial branch officials to facilitate broadcast coverage of state government activities and events that are pertinent to the purpose set forth in 5-11-1101.

(2) The legislative council shall assist the division in exercising oversight of the contract with the operator to ensure that broadcasts conform with the following principles of good conduct:

(a) Programming must be fair, accurate, and balanced without regard to partisanship or ideology.

(b) Programming must be scheduled in a manner that acknowledges the importance of timeliness in the delivery of information.

(c) Issue coverage and the scheduling of broadcasts must reflect a thoughtful balance of subject areas, geographic sensitivities, and attention to the various committees and other deliberative bodies engaged in the legislative process.

(d) Programming must always be intended to increase public understanding of both the substantive issues and the processes by which the legislature and other bodies seek to resolve problems, address challenges, and seize opportunities for the public good.

(e) Programming must include each branch of government to the extent possible.

(f) Production values must be of the highest attainable quality to accurately convey the genuine pace and tenor of governmental activity.

(g) Camera angles, shot selection, graphic subtitling, and other aspects of broadcast style and audiovisual content are subject to guidance and monitoring by the division to ensure impartiality and respect for the decorum of the legislature and other governmental institutions.

(3) The division is responsible for ensuring that the audio and video components of the broadcasting service are maintained in good working order.

(4) Operations and maintenance of the cameras, cabling, wiring, electronics, recording equipment, and associated information technology in the capitol and the broadcast production facility are the responsibility of the division. The operator, other contractors, if any, the division, and the department of administration shall cooperate with each other to ensure broadcast system reliability.

(5) The division shall develop and implement a plan to provide the maximum attainable transmission or distribution of broadcasts. The division may enter into agreements with one or more Montana public television organizations, telecommunications firms, nonprofit organizations, or state telecommunications networks for transmission or distribution of broadcasts.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 557, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 257, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 183, L. 2017.

5-11-1112. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 26, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 557, L. 2001.

CHAPTER 12
LEGISLATIVE FINANCE AND DATA ANALYTICS ACT

Part 1 — General

5-12-101. Title and purpose of chapter.
5-12-102. Definitions.

Part 2 — Legislative Finance Committee

5-12-201. Legislative finance committee.
5-12-202. Appointment of members.
5-12-203. Term — officers — compensation.
5-12-204. Vacancies.
5-12-205. Powers and duties of committee.
5-12-206 and 5-12-207 reserved.
5-12-208. Grant information to be provided to legislative finance committee — internet link required.
5-12-209. Reporting.

Part 3 — Legislative Fiscal Analyst

5-12-301. Legislative fiscal division.
5-12-302. Fiscal analyst's duties.
5-12-303. Fiscal analysis information from state agencies.
5-12-304. Employees and consultants.

Part 4 — Budget Amendments

5-12-401. Submission of budget amendments to committee.
5-12-402. Repealed.

Part 5 — Interim Budget Committees

5-12-501. Interim budget committees.
5-12-502. Composition of interim budget committees — compensation.
5-12-503. Officers of interim budget committees — vacancies.
5-12-504. Duties of interim budget committees.

Part 6 — Modernization and Risk Analysis Committee

5-12-601. Modernization and risk analysis committee.
5-12-602. Modernization and risk analysis committee — terms — officers — compensation.

Chapter Cross-References

Creation of state debt by Legislature, Art. VIII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.
Balanced budget, Art. VIII, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Strict accountability, Art. VIII, sec. 12, Mont. Const.
Judicial budget requests, 3-1-702.
Biennial report by Department of Revenue to Legislature, 15-1-205.
State finance — general administration, Title 17, ch. 1.
State finance — budgeting, Title 17, ch. 7.
Judicial budget requests — submission to Legislature by Governor, 17-7-122.
Disbursement and expenditure, Title 17, ch. 8.

Part 1
General

5-12-101. Title and purpose of chapter. (1) This chapter may be cited as "The Legislative Finance and Data Analytics Act".

(2) Because the legislature is responsible for appropriating public funds, it shall provide for fiscal analysis of state government to accumulate, compile, analyze, and furnish information on the financial matters of the state that is relevant to issues of policy and questions of statewide importance.

(3) Because the legislature is responsible for providing a comprehensive system of efficient governance, policy, and appropriations for the state and its political subdivisions, including local governments and schools, analysis of data across all aspects of government revenues, services, and funding is essential.

(4) Because the laws enacted by the legislature remain unless later changed by the legislature, appropriations may impact future generations, and tax and other law changes may impact the state's economy, the legislature needs a data tool to evaluate the impacts of legislation on future generations. The tool should be derived from reliable data sets and numeric in nature to allow the legislature to evaluate different assumptions and potential changes in law 20 years into the future.

History: En. 43-1109 by Sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1109; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 587, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 587, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

Cross-References

Committee review of appropriations requests, 5-2-202.
Attorney General to report to Appropriations Committee regarding criminal justice information network, 44-2-304.

5-12-102. Definitions. In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Budget amendment" means a request submitted through the budget director to the committee for executive branch agencies to expend funds in excess of those appropriated by the legislature.

(2) "Budget director" means the budget director appointed pursuant to 17-7-103.

(3) "Committee" means the legislative finance committee created by this chapter.

(4) "State agency" means all offices, departments, boards, commissions, institutions, universities, colleges, and any other person or any other administrative unit of state government that spends or encumbers public moneys by virtue of an appropriation from the legislature, that handles money on behalf of the state, or that holds any trust or agency moneys from any source.

History: (1)En. 43-1117 by Sec. 1, Ch. 510, L. 1975; Sec. 43-1117, R.C.M. 1947; (2) thru (4)En. 43-1110 by Sec. 2, Ch. 448, L. 1975; Sec. 43-1110, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1110, 43-1117.

Part 2
Legislative Finance Committee

Part Cross-References

Dedication of state revenue, Title 17, ch. 1, part 5.

5-12-201. Legislative finance committee. There is a legislative finance committee which is a permanent joint committee of the legislature.

History: En. 43-1111 by Sec. 3, Ch. 448, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1111(part).

5-12-202. Appointment of members. (1) The legislative finance committee consists of:

(a) four members of the senate finance and claims committee appointed by the presiding officer;

(b) subject to 5-5-234, two members of the senate appointed at large by the committee on committees;

(c) four members of the house of representatives appropriations committee appointed by the presiding officer; and

(d) subject to 5-5-234, two members of the house appointed at large by the speaker.

(2) These members must be appointed before the end of each legislative session. Three members of each house, two committee members and one at-large member, must be from the majority party and the other three members appointed from that house must be from the minority party.

(3) Presiding officers of interim budget committees are ex officio nonvoting members of the legislative finance committee.

History: En. 43-1112 by Sec. 4, Ch. 448, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1112(1), (2); amd. Sec. 251, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 432, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 432, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

5-12-203. Term — officers — compensation. (1) Appointments are for 2 years, and a member of the committee shall serve until the member's term of office as a legislator ends or until a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first.

(2) The committee shall elect one of its members as presiding officer and other officers that it considers necessary. If a party has a majority of both chambers, the presiding officer must be from that party.

(3) Members of the committee are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302.

History: En. 43-1112 by Sec. 4, Ch. 448, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1112(4), (5), (6); amd. Sec. 252, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 432, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 432, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

5-12-204. Vacancies. If a vacancy occurs on the committee when the legislature is not in session, the remaining members shall select a member of the appropriate political party and appropriate committee, as provided in 5-12-202, to complete the unexpired term. If there is a vacancy on the committee at the beginning of a legislative session because a member's term of office as a legislator has ended, a member of the same political party must be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment, no later than the 10th legislative day, to serve until a successor is appointed under 5-12-202.

History: En. 43-1112 by Sec. 4, Ch. 448, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1112(3); amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

5-12-205. Powers and duties of committee. The committee:

(1) may organize, adopt rules to govern its proceedings, form subcommittees, and meet as often as necessary, upon the call of the presiding officer, to advise and consult with the legislative fiscal analyst;

(2) may employ and, in accordance with the rules for classification and pay adopted by the legislative council, set the salary of the legislative fiscal analyst. The legislative fiscal analyst shall serve at the pleasure of and be responsible for providing services to the committee.

(3) may exercise the investigatory powers of a standing committee under chapter 5, part 1, of this title;

(4) shall monitor the information technology policies of the department of administration with specific attention to:

(a) identification of information technology issues likely to require future legislative attention; and

(b) the evaluation of proposed information technology policy changes and the fiscal implications of the proposed changes and shall provide written responses to the department of administration communicating the committee's positions and concerns on proposed policy changes;

(5) may accumulate, compile, analyze, and provide information relevant to existing or proposed legislation on how information technology can be used to impact the welfare of the state;

(6) may prepare legislation to implement any proposed changes involving information technology;

(7) shall, before each regular and special legislative session involving budgetary matters, prepare recommendations to the house appropriations committee and the senate finance and claims committee on the application of certain budget issues. At a minimum, the recommendations must include procedures for the consistent application during each session of inflation factors, the allocation of fixed costs, and the personal services budget. The committee may also make recommendations on other issues of major concern in the budgeting process, such as estimating the cost of implementing particular programs based upon present law.

(8) may, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, in consultation with the speaker of the house, appoint up to six ad hoc nonvoting committee members from the house of representatives. These members may participate in meetings but may not vote.

History: En. 43-1113 by Sec. 5, Ch. 448, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1113; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 347, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Powers and duties of Council, 5-11-105.

5-12-206 and 5-12-207 reserved.

5-12-208. Grant information to be provided to legislative finance committee — internet link required. (1) Each state agency shall provide an annual report pursuant to subsection (2) to the legislative finance committee by October 1 of each year.

(2) The report must be provided electronically as a spreadsheet and must include the following information about each grant awarded by the state agency during the previous fiscal year:

(a) the name of the grantee;
(b) the address of the grantee;
(c) the amount of the grant;
(d) the award date of the grant;
(e) the purpose of the grant; and
(f) the grant period.

(3) The legislative finance committee shall post an internet link to the reports on its website under the meeting materials for the committee meeting that next follows the deadline established in subsection (1). At the end of the interim, a copy of the link or links must be provided to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 369, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

5-12-209. *(Effective July 1, 2024)* **Reporting.** (1) To document the impacts and process associated with compliance with information requests made pursuant to Article II, section 9, of the Montana constitution and Title 2, chapter 6, each quarter, each executive branch agency, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch shall submit the information required by this section for the prior quarter to the legislative finance committee. The executive branch agencies subject to this section include the agencies headed by officers listed in Article VI, section 1, of the Montana constitution and the departments created pursuant to Article VI, section 7, of the Montana constitution.

(2) The report must contain the following information:

(a) the number of requests for information submitted to each entity in the preceding quarter;
(b) the identity of each requester;
(c) what information was requested;
(d) the date of the request; and
(e) the status of the request, whether completed or in progress.

(3) If the entity has completed the request, the report must also provide the following information:

(a) the date on which compliance with the request occurred;

(b) the number of hours to fulfill the request; and

(c) costs imposed on the requester to fulfill the request.

(4) For any request not completed in a quarter and reported pursuant to this section, the request must be reported on subsequent reports until the request has been completed.

(5) This section does not apply to requests that:

(a) were not submitted according to a public information request process or protocol established by an agency;

(b) pertain only to a specific person or property for applications, vital records, licenses, permits, registrations, and related supporting documents; or

(c) were for information accessible on a state website or other publication available at the time the request was made.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 514, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 514, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2024."

Codification Change: Section 2, Ch. 514, L. 2023, provided that this section was to be codified as an integral part of Title 17, chapter 8, part 4. The Code Commissioner has codified this section in Title 5, chapter 12, part 2, to more closely reflect the subject matter.

Part 3
Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Part Cross-References

Dedication of state revenue, Title 17, ch. 1, part 5.

State finance — budgeting, Title 17, ch. 7.

5-12-301. Legislative fiscal division. There is a legislative fiscal division. The legislative fiscal analyst shall manage the legislative fiscal division to support the legislative finance committee, the interim budget committees identified in 5-12-501, and the modernization and risk analysis committee and carry out the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. 43-1111 by Sec. 3, Ch. 448, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1111(part); amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 494, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 587, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 494, L. 2023, in second sentence inserted "the interim budget committees identified in 5-12-501"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

Section 5, Ch. 587, L. 2023, in second sentence inserted "and the modernization and risk analysis committee"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

5-12-302. Fiscal analyst's duties. The legislative fiscal analyst shall:

(1) provide for fiscal analysis of state government and accumulate, compile, analyze, and furnish information bearing upon the financial matters of the state that is relevant to issues of policy and questions of statewide importance, including but not limited to investigation and study of the possibilities of effecting economy and efficiency in state government;

(2) estimate revenue from existing and proposed taxes;

(3) analyze the executive budget and budget requests of selected state agencies and institutions, including proposals for the construction of capital improvements;

(4) make the reports, data tools, and recommendations that the legislative fiscal analyst considers desirable to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210 and make reports, data tools, and recommendations as requested by the legislative finance committee and the legislature;

(5) assist committees of the legislature and individual legislators in compiling and analyzing financial data tools;

(6) assist the revenue interim committee in performing its revenue estimating duties;

(7) assist and provide staff for the interim budget committees established in 5-12-501;

(8) assist and provide staff for the modernization and risk analysis committee; and

(9) review all reports submitted to the legislative fiscal analyst and notify the legislative finance committee or the appropriate interim budget committee, or both, of any concerns the fiscal analyst identifies in a report.

History: En. 43-1114 by Sec. 6, Ch. 448, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1114; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 608, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 120, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 163, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 525, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 587, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 587, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

Termination Provision Repealed: Section 3, Ch. 494, L. 2023, repealed sec. 12, Ch. 525, L. 2021, which provided that the amendment made to this section by Ch. 525 terminated December 31, 2025. Effective May 1, 2023.

5-12-303. Fiscal analysis information from state agencies. (1) The legislative fiscal analyst may investigate and examine the costs and revenue of state government activities and may examine and obtain copies of the records, books, and files of any state agency, including confidential records.

(2) When confidential records and information are obtained from a state agency, the legislative fiscal analyst and staff must be subject to the same penalties for unauthorized disclosure of the confidential records and information provided for under the laws administered by the state agency. The legislative fiscal analyst shall develop policies to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of confidential records and information obtained from state agencies and may not disclose confidential records or information to legislators.

(3) (a) The department of revenue shall make Montana individual income tax information available by removing names, addresses, and social security numbers and substituting in their place a state accounting record identifier number. Except for the purposes of complying with federal law, the department may not alter the data in any other way.

(b) The department of revenue shall provide the name and address of a taxpayer on written request of the legislative fiscal analyst when the values on the requested return, including estimated payments, are considered necessary by the legislative fiscal analyst to properly analyze state revenue and are of a sufficient magnitude to materially affect the analysis and when the identity of the taxpayer is necessary to evaluate the effect of the return or payments on the analysis being performed.

(4) (a) The department of public health and human services shall provide the legislative fiscal analyst direct access to the department's secure data warehouse as the phases of the secure data warehouse project are implemented.

(b) The department of public health and human services shall consult with the legislative fiscal analyst and shall establish user requirements to ensure the legislative fiscal analyst does not have access to direct identifiers stored on the secure data warehouse. The department of public health and human services shall consult with the legislative fiscal analyst and shall establish requirements to ensure the legislative fiscal analyst does not have access to direct identifiers stored in other data systems where the data is not available through the secure data warehouse after the phases of the secure data warehouse project are implemented.

(c) The data must be made available to the legislative fiscal analyst in a format that complies with the regulations of the respective federal programs.

(d) The department of public health and human services shall provide the legislative fiscal analyst with a summary of the data available in the secure data warehouse and shall provide an update when new data sets are added. The summary must include the list of fields available for the legislative fiscal analyst to access.

(5) The board of crime control shall provide the legislative fiscal analyst direct access to the criminal justice warehouse established in 44-7-126 in a manner that complies with the regulations of the respective federal programs.

(6) Within 1 day after the legislative finance committee presents its budget analysis to the legislature, the budget director and the legislative fiscal analyst shall exchange expenditure and disbursement recommendations by second-level expenditure detail and by funding sources detailed by accounting entity. This information must be filed in the respective offices and be made available to the legislature and the public. In preparing the budget analysis for the next biennium for submission to the legislature, the legislative fiscal analyst shall use the base budget, the present law base, and new proposals as defined in 17-7-102.

(7) This section does not authorize publication or public disclosure of information if the law prohibits publication or disclosure or if the department of revenue notifies the fiscal analyst that specified records or information may contain confidential information.

History: En. 43-1115 by Sec. 7, Ch. 448, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1115; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 787, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 347, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 70, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 466, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 641, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 141, L. 2023, in (4)(d) substituted current text regarding the department of public health and human services providing the legislative fiscal analyst with summary data in the secure data warehouse for former (4)(d) (see sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 2023, for former text). Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Section 6, Ch. 641, L. 2023, inserted (5) regarding legislative fiscal analyst access to the criminal justice warehouse; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

5-12-304. Employees and consultants. The legislative fiscal analyst may engage personnel and consultants to fulfill the duties of the division within the limits of appropriations for the division. The legislative fiscal analyst may define the duties of personnel engaged and shall fix the salaries of employees in accordance with the rules for classification and pay adopted by the legislative council.

History: En. 43-1116 by Sec. 8, Ch. 448, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1116; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.

Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.

Part 4
Budget Amendments

Part Cross-References

Expenditure of new federal assistance program funds, 17-3-108.

State finance — budgeting, Title 17, ch. 7.

Budget amendment procedure, Title 17, ch. 7, part 4.

Expenditures in excess of appropriation unlawful, 17-8-103, 17-8-104.

5-12-401. Submission of budget amendments to committee. All budget amendments for state agencies must be submitted through the budget director to the legislative finance committee as soon as received by the budget director. No state agency shall expend in excess of its legislative appropriation, which includes a lawfully approved and valid budget amendment.

History: En. 43-1118 by Sec. 2, Ch. 510, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1118; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 536, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Agency defined, 17-7-102.

5-12-402. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

History: En. 43-1119 by Sec. 3, Ch. 510, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 43-1119; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 536, L. 1983.

Part 5
Interim Budget Committees

Part Compiler's Comments

Termination Provision Repealed: Section 3, Ch. 494, L. 2023, repealed sec. 12, Ch. 525, L. 2021, which terminated this part December 31, 2025. Effective May 1, 2023.

5-12-501. Interim budget committees. (1) During an interim when the legislature is not in session, the committees listed in subsection (2) are the interim budget committees of the legislature. They are empowered to sit as committees and may act in their respective areas of responsibility.

(2) The following are the interim budget committees of the legislature:

(a) general government budget committee to oversee the budget activities of the department of administration, department of military affairs, department of commerce, state auditor's office, governor's office, secretary of state, commissioner of political practices, department of revenue, department of labor and industry, legislative branch, and consumer counsel;

(b) health and human services budget committee to oversee the budget activities of the department of public health and human services;

(c) natural resources and transportation budget committee to oversee the budget activities of the department of livestock, department of environmental quality, department of agriculture, department of natural resources and conservation, department of transportation, and department of fish, wildlife, and parks;

(d) judicial branch, law enforcement, and justice budget committee to oversee the budget activities of the judicial branch, department of justice, public service regulation, office of state public defender, and department of corrections; and

(e) education budget committee to oversee budget activities related to the Montana arts council, Montana historical society, board of public education, office of public instruction, school for the deaf and blind, Montana state library, and commissioner of higher education; and

(f) long-range planning budget committee to oversee the budget activities related to long-range program implementation issues considered by the subcommittee during the session.

(3) An interim budget committee may refer an issue to an interim committee provided for in 5-5-202 that the referring committee determines to be more appropriate for the consideration of the issue.

(4) If there is a dispute between interim committees and an interim budget committee as to which committee has proper jurisdiction over a subject, the legislative council and legislative finance committee shall consult and determine the most appropriate committee and assign the subject to that committee.

(5) Interim budget committees may not be assigned interim studies pursuant to 5-5-217.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 525, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 494, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 494, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

5-12-502. Composition of interim budget committees — compensation. (1) The composition of each interim budget committee is the full membership of the joint budget subcommittee that considers agency budgets consistent with the agency oversight established in 5-12-501 during each legislative session.

(2) Members of the committees are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 525, L. 2021.

5-12-503. Officers of interim budget committees — vacancies. (1) The presiding officer and vice presiding officers of the interim budget committee shall be the presiding officer and vice presiding officers of the joint budget subcommittee that consider agency budgets consistent with the agency oversight established in 5-12-501 during the legislative session.

(2) If a vacancy occurs on the interim budget committee when the legislature is not in session, a member of the same political party must be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, if the member being replaced is a representative, or by the president of the senate, if the member being replaced is a senator. If the member being replaced represents the minority party, the replacement must be made in consultation with the appropriate minority leader.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 525, L. 2021.

5-12-504. Duties of interim budget committees. (1) Each interim budget committee in 5-12-501(2)(a) through (2)(e) shall:

(a) oversee the expenditures included in the budget for the agencies overseen by the interim budget committees established in 5-12-501;

(b) review implementation of new programs by the agencies overseen by the interim budget committees established in 5-12-501 that were approved by the legislature immediately preceding the interim;

(c) review programs discussed in the respective subcommittee during the legislative session;

(d) review quarterly expenditures and budget transactions and compare those transactions to the budget adopted by the legislature;

(e) report budget observations and recommendations to the legislative finance committee at each quarterly meeting; and

(f) forward any recommendations for proposed legislation to the legislative finance committee or relevant interim committee and may not directly request legislation.

(2) Beginning in September of each odd-numbered year, each interim budget committee in 5-12-501(2)(a) through (2)(e) shall meet within the week prior to the quarterly legislative finance committee meetings.

(3) Beginning in September of each odd-numbered year, the interim budget committee provided for in 5-12-501(2)(f) shall meet each December and June within the week prior to the quarterly legislative finance committee meetings to review project status implementation

throughout the interim and report budget considerations and recommendations to the legislative finance committee.

(4) The legislative fiscal division shall:

(a) provide staff assistance to the interim budget committees; and

(b) keep accurate records of the activities and proceedings of each interim budget committee.

(5) If an interim budget committee produces a report or receives a report from an agency, the report must also be provided to the appropriate interim committee that has agency oversight over the subject matter discussed in the report.

(6) The legislative finance committee may delegate specific studies or analysis to an interim budget committee and must consider all recommendations for potential legislation.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 525, L. 2021.

Part 6
Modernization and Risk Analysis Committee

5-12-601. Modernization and risk analysis committee. (1) There is a modernization and risk analysis committee. The committee shall study the long-term future budget and revenue needs of the state with changing economics and demographics.

(2) The modernization and risk analysis committee is a bipartisan committee consisting of the following:

(a) six members of the legislative finance committee, with three members appointed by the presiding officer and three members appointed by the vice presiding officer of the legislative finance committee; and

(b) four members who are not officials or employees in the executive or legislative branches with two appointed by the presiding officer and two appointed by the vice presiding officer of the modernization and risk analysis committee; and

(c) an interim committee chairperson and vice chairperson of opposite parties as temporary voting members of the committee. The presiding officer of the modernization and risk analysis committee shall invite the two members based on the relevance of at least one of the topics of the upcoming meeting to the subject matter under the jurisdiction of a specific interim committee. If the chairperson or vice chairperson of the interim committee is unable to attend, the chairperson or vice chairperson may designate a member of the interim committee. The interim committee chairperson and vice chairperson must be invited at least 30 days prior to the meeting date.

(3) The legislative fiscal division shall provide administrative staff support and analysis to the modernization and risk analysis committee. The legislative services division may provide research and legal support at the request of the committee.

(4) The modernization and risk analysis committee shall:

(a) use available data and analytical resources to study the past, present, and future costs and revenues of all state and local government entities and other policy areas that affect the future well-being of the citizens of the state of Montana, including but not limited to:

(i) health care;

(ii) human services;

(iii) elementary and secondary education;

(iv) higher education;

(v) pensions;

(vi) public safety and corrections;

(vii) infrastructure and public works;

(viii) programs historically funded by revenue generated from natural resource taxes;

(ix) information technology systems of the state and local government.

(b) issue and, at the committee's discretion, accept invitations to work with interim committees on various data and analytic research projects;

(c) provide direction to the legislative fiscal division on the direction and priorities of data work of the division;

(d) create data sets and models for future analysis by the legislature; and

(e) take affirmative measures to use and disseminate data generated by and for the committee for educating, training, and increasing the competency of the public.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 587, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 9, Ch. 587, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 18, 2023.

5-12-602. Modernization and risk analysis committee — terms — officers — compensation. (1) Except for interim committee members invited pursuant to 5-12-601(2)(c), appointments to the modernization and risk analysis committee are for 2 years, and a member of the committee shall serve until the member's term of office as a legislator ends or until a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first.

(2) The modernization and risk analysis committee shall elect one of its members as presiding officer and other officers that it considers necessary.

(3) Members of the modernization and risk analysis committee and invited interim committee members are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302. Public members are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302 and 5-5-211.

(4) If a vacancy occurs on the modernization and risk analysis committee established in 5-12-601 when the legislature is not in session, the new member must be appointed by the same method as the original appointment to complete the unexpired term.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 587, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 9, Ch. 587, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 18, 2023.

CHAPTER 13
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT ACT

Part 1 — General

5-13-101. Title and purpose of chapter.
5-13-102. Definitions.

Part 2 — Legislative Audit Committee

5-13-201. Legislative audit committee.
5-13-202. Appointment and term of members — officers — vacancies.
5-13-203. Meetings — compensation.

Part 3 — Legislative Auditor

5-13-301. Legislative audit division.
5-13-302. Appointment and qualifications.
5-13-303. Term and removal.
5-13-304. Powers and duties.
5-13-305. Employees, consultants, and legal counsel — background checks — cure for impairment.
5-13-306. Legislative auditor to assist legislature during sessions.
5-13-307. Recommendations of legislative auditor — implementation costs.
5-13-308. Audit standards and objectives.
5-13-309. Information from state agencies.
5-13-310. Prosecution — discipline of professionals.
5-13-311. Legislative auditor to establish and maintain toll-free number for reporting fraud, waste, and abuse — procedures.
5-13-312. Deposit of money recovered.
5-13-313. Audit selection based on risk.
5-13-314. Employment protection.
5-13-315 through 5-13-320 reserved.
5-13-321. Joint audits.

Part 4 — Audit Costs and Contracts

5-13-401. Definitions.
5-13-402. Audit costs.
5-13-403. Audit account — appropriation and expenditures.
5-13-404. Legislative audit specialist services reserve account.
5-13-405 through 5-13-410 reserved.
5-13-411. Legislative auditor to approve contracts for audit services.

Chapter Cross-References

Privatization plan review, Title 2, ch. 8, part 3.
Fiscal year and financial reports, 17-2-110.

Part 1
General

5-13-101. Title and purpose of chapter. (1) This chapter may be cited as "The Legislative Audit Act".

(2) Because the legislature is responsible for authorizing the expenditure of public money, designating the sources from which money may be collected, and shaping the administration to perform the work of state government and is held finally accountable for fiscal policy, the legislature should also be responsible for the audit of books, accounts, activities, and records so that it may be assured that its directives have been carried out. It is the intent of this chapter that each agency of state government be audited for the purpose of furnishing the legislature with factual information vital to the discharge of its legislative duties.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 249, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2301; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 2007.

5-13-102. Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "committee" means the legislative audit committee;

(2) "state agency" means all offices, departments, boards, commissions, institutions, universities, colleges, and any other person or any other administrative unit of state government that spends or encumbers public moneys by virtue of an appropriation from the legislature or that handles money on behalf of the state or that holds any trust or agency moneys from any source.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 249, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2302.

Part 2
Legislative Audit Committee

Part Cross-References

Legislature to establish postaudit committee, Art. V, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Legislative Audit Committee — agency termination, 2-8-112, 2-8-113.
Legislative Audit Committee — privatization plan review, Title 2, ch. 8, part 3.

5-13-201. Legislative audit committee. There is a legislative audit committee which is a permanent joint committee of the legislature.

History: En. 79-2303.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2303.1(1).

5-13-202. Appointment and term of members — officers — vacancies. (1) The legislative audit committee consists of six members of the senate and six members of the house of representatives appointed before the end of each regular session in the same manner as standing committees of the respective houses are appointed. Subject to 5-5-234, three of the appointees of each house must be members of the majority party and three of the appointees of each house must be members of the minority party.

(2) A member of the committee shall serve until the member's term of office as a legislator ends or until a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first.

(3) The committee shall elect one of its members as presiding officer and other officers as it considers necessary. If a party has a majority of both chambers, the presiding officer must be from that party.

(4) A vacancy on the committee occurring when the legislature is not in session must be filled by the selection of a member of the legislature by the remaining members of the committee. If there is a vacancy on the committee at the beginning of a legislative session because a member's term of office as a legislator has ended, a member of the same political party must be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment, no later than the 10th legislative day, to serve until a successor is appointed under subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 249, L. 1967; Sec. 79-2303, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 79-2304 by Sec. 2, Ch. 367, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2304; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 432, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 432, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

5-13-203. Meetings — compensation. (1) The committee shall meet:

(a) as often as may be necessary during and between legislative sessions to advise and consult with the legislative auditor; and

(b) to review privatization plans and to make findings, conclusions, and recommendations as required under the provisions of 2-8-302.

(2) Committee members are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 249, L. 1967; Sec. 79-2304, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 79-2305 by Sec. 3, Ch. 367, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2305; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 285, L. 2005.**

Part 3
Legislative Auditor

Part Cross-References

Auditor as member of State Records Committee, 2-6-1107.
Audits of political subdivision, Title 2, ch. 7, part 5.
Agency performance audits, Title 2, ch. 8, part 1.
Review of proposed bond for state officers, 2-9-602.
Ethanol-blended gasoline use in state vehicles — review of records, 2-17-414.
Distribution of financial reports of state agencies, 17-2-110.
Microbusiness Development Act, Title 17, ch. 6, part 4.
Department of Administration to provide information regarding banking reports to Legislative Auditor, 32-1-234.
Offenses against public administration, Title 45, ch. 7.

5-13-301. Legislative audit division. There is a legislative audit division. The legislative auditor is responsible to manage the division in order to perform the duties imposed by this chapter.

History: **En. 79-2303.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2303.1(2); amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 545, L. 1995.**

5-13-302. Appointment and qualifications. (1) (a) The committee shall appoint the legislative auditor and set the legislative auditor's salary in accordance with the rules for classification and pay adopted by the legislative council.

(b) The legislative auditor's employment may not be conditioned based on the review, recommendation, or feedback of a state agency. However, this subsection (1)(b) does not prevent the legislative auditor from seeking feedback of state agencies for the purposes of evaluating the performance of employees of the legislative audit division.

(c) A tie vote by the committee does not negate approval of the legislative auditor's continued employment after initial appointment or reappointment.

(2) The legislative auditor shall hold a degree from an accredited college or university with a major in accounting or an allied field and shall have at least 2 years' experience in the field of governmental accounting and auditing.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 249, L. 1967; Sec. 79-2305, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 79-2307 by Sec. 8, Ch. 367, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2307; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 2021.**

5-13-303. Term and removal. (1) The legislative auditor is responsible solely to the legislature.

(2) (a) The legislative auditor shall hold office for a term of 2 years beginning with July 1 of each even-numbered year.

(b) The committee may not condition the legislative auditor's reemployment after a 2-year period based on the review, recommendation, or feedback of a state agency.

(c) A tie vote by the committee does not negate approval of the legislative auditor's continued employment after initial appointment or reappointment after a 2-year period.

(d) The committee may remove the legislative auditor for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office at any time after notice and hearing.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 249, L. 1967; Sec. 79-2307, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 79-2309 by Sec. 8, Ch. 367, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2309; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 253, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 147, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 183, L. 2021.**

5-13-304. Powers and duties. The legislative auditor shall:

(1) (a) perform an annual audit of the statewide annual financial report prepared by the department of administration in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(b) continue to conduct a biennial single audit until June 30, 2025. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the legislative auditor shall perform an annual audit of federal financial assistance provided to the state that meets the requirements established by the federal government.

(c) conduct, or have conducted, compliance audits or audits of the financial affairs and transactions of all state agencies at an interval determined by the legislative auditor, taking into consideration the agency's operations, risk, the complexity of its fiscal structure, and the nature and extent of previous audit findings;

(2) conduct an audit to meet the standards and accomplish the objectives required in 5-13-308 whenever the legislative auditor determines it necessary and shall advise the members of the legislative audit committee;

(3) make a complete written report of each audit. A copy of each report must be furnished to the department of administration, the state agency that was audited, each member of the committee, and the legislative services division.

(4) report immediately in writing to the attorney general and the governor any apparent violation of penal statutes disclosed by the audit of a state agency and furnish the attorney general with all information available relative to the violation;

(5) report immediately in writing to the governor any instances of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance by a state officer or employee disclosed by the audit of a state agency;

(6) report immediately to the commissioner of political practices any instances of apparent violations of the state code of ethics provided for in Title 2, chapter 2, part 1;

(7) report immediately to the surety upon the bond of an official or employee when an audit discloses a shortage in the accounts of the official or employee. Failure to notify the surety does not release the surety from any obligation under the bond.

(8) have the authority to audit records of organizations and individuals receiving grants from or on behalf of the state to determine that the grants are administered in accordance with the grant terms and conditions. Whenever a state agency enters into an agreement to grant resources under its control to others, the agency shall obtain the written consent of the grantee to the audit provided for in this subsection.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 249, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 326, L. 1974; Sec. 79-2308, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 79-2310 by Sec. 5, Ch. 367, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 309, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2310; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 91, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

Cross-References

Postaudit of University System, Art. X, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Audits of group benefit plans, 2-18-816.
Audit of Board of Investments loans and investments, 17-5-1529, 17-5-1649, 17-6-321.
Liquidated claims against state subject to postaudit, 17-8-202.
Audit of community college district, 20-15-229.
Audit of Medical Legal Review Panel fund, 27-6-206.
Access to bank reports, 32-1-234.
Banks and trust companies — disposition of unclaimed funds, 32-1-537.
Auditor to inspect licensing accounts of Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 87-2-903.
Legislative audit of Board of Housing, 90-6-124.

5-13-305. Employees, consultants, and legal counsel — background checks — cure for impairment. (1) The legislative auditor may appoint and define the duties of employees and consultants who are necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter within the limitations of legislative appropriations. The legislative auditor shall set the pay for employees in accordance with the rules for classification and pay adopted by the legislative council. The legislative auditor may employ legal counsel to conduct proceedings under this chapter.

(2) (a) The legislative auditor may not employ a prospective employee to conduct or supervise audits without conducting or having conducted a background check on the prospective employee. The background check must include a state and federal fingerprint-based check by the Montana department of justice and the federal bureau of investigation. When reporting the results of the background check, the Montana department of justice shall specifically report

any previous conviction of the prospective employee for embezzlement or other financial crimes. The purpose of the background and fingerprint checks is to determine whether the prospective employee is an appropriate person to audit the records of one or more state agencies or programs.

(b) A copy of the results of the background check must be delivered to the legislative auditor. If the legislative auditor determines, based upon the results of the background and fingerprint checks, that a prospective employee is not an appropriate person to audit one or more state agencies or programs, the legislative auditor may not employ the prospective employee.

(3) The legislative auditor shall inform the legislative council and the legislative audit committee in writing of an administrative policy or rule adopted under 5-11-105 that may impair the independence of the division, along with a statement of the reasons for the opinion and suggested changes to cure the impairment. The legislative council shall review the rule in question and adopt a revision that is generally applicable to the legislative branch and that is designed to cure the impairment. While the impairment exists, the legislative audit committee may adopt a specific exemption to the questioned rule that states the alternative rule to be employed under the exemption. If prepared, a compilation of written reports must be provided to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 249, L. 1967; Sec. 79-2306, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 79-2308 by Sec. 4, Ch. 367, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2308; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.

Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.

5-13-306. Legislative auditor to assist legislature during sessions. During sessions of the legislature, the legislative auditor and the audit staff, when requested, shall assist the legislature, its committees, and its members by gathering and analyzing information relating to the fiscal affairs of state government.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 249, L. 1967; Sec. 79-2311, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 79-2311.1 by Legislative Council, 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2311.1; amd. Sec. 254, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

5-13-307. Recommendations of legislative auditor — implementation costs. (1) The reports of the legislative auditor may include comments, recommendations, and suggestions, but the legislative auditor does not have the power to enforce them and may not otherwise influence or direct executive or legislative action.

(2) Whenever significant costs are associated with the implementation of audit recommendations, the legislative auditor shall, if practicable, note this fact and the estimated amount of the costs in the appropriate audit report.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 10, Ch. 249, L. 1967; Sec. 79-2310, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 79-2312 by Sec. 6, Ch. 367, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2312; (2)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 24, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 255, Ch. 61, L. 2007.**

5-13-308. Audit standards and objectives. The objectives of financial compliance, performance, and information system audits of state agencies or their programs conducted by the legislative auditor are formulated, defined, and conducted in accordance with industry standards established for auditing to determine whether:

(1) the agency is carrying out only those activities or programs authorized by the legislature and is conducting them efficiently, effectively, and in accordance with legislative intent;

(2) expenditures are made only in furtherance of authorized activities and in accordance with the requirements of applicable laws and regulations;

(3) the agency collects and accounts properly for all revenues and receipts arising from its activities;

(4) the assets, including information technology, of the agency or in its custody are adequately safeguarded and controlled and utilized in an efficient manner;

(5) reports and financial statements by the agency to the governor, the legislature, and central control agencies disclose fully the nature and scope of the activities conducted and provide a proper basis for evaluating the agency's operations.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 249, L. 1967; Sec. 79-2309, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 79-2311 by Sec. 8, Ch. 367, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2311; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 91, L. 2007.**

5-13-309. Information from state agencies. (1) All state agencies shall aid and assist the legislative auditor in the auditing of books, accounts, activities, and records.

(2) The legislative auditor may examine at any time the books, accounts, activities, and records, confidential or otherwise, of a state agency. This section may not be construed as authorizing the publication of information prohibited by law.

(3) The head of each state agency shall immediately notify both the attorney general and the legislative auditor in writing upon the discovery of any theft, actual or suspected, involving state money or property under that agency's control or for which the agency is responsible.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 249, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 1971; Sec. 79-2312, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 79-2314 by Sec. 7, Ch. 367, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2314; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 256, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 91, L. 2007.**

5-13-310. Prosecution — discipline of professionals. (1) The attorney general shall conduct on behalf of the state all prosecutions for public offenses involving a state agency that are reported to the attorney general by the legislative auditor.

(2) If the attorney general declines the prosecution or fails to commence action on a public offense within a reasonable time, the county attorney of the appropriate county shall conduct on behalf of the state the prosecution.

(3) In an action taken by the attorney general or a county attorney under this section, in which a professional person in the state of Montana is charged or may have engaged in unethical conduct, all records or certified copies of the records, including investigative materials, must be turned over to the appropriate disciplinary authority for the profession immediately upon completion of the action.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 458, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 79-2315; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Theft and related offenses, Title 45, ch. 6, part 3.

Offenses against public administration, Title 45, ch. 7.

5-13-311. Legislative auditor to establish and maintain toll-free number for reporting fraud, waste, and abuse — procedures. (1) The legislative auditor shall establish and maintain a toll-free telephone number for Montana residents to report fraud, waste, and abuse in state government. The legislative auditor shall review all telephone calls received at the toll-free number and maintain a record of each call. The legislative auditor shall:

(a) analyze and verify the information received from each telephone call; or

(b) refer the information for appropriate action to the agency that is or appears to be the subject of the call.

(2) A state agency that receives information referred to it by the legislative auditor pursuant to this section shall take adequate and appropriate action to investigate and remedy any fraud, waste, or abuse discovered as a result of the referral. The agency shall report in writing to the legislative auditor concerning the results of its investigation and those measures taken to correct any fraud, waste, or abuse discovered as a result of the referral.

(3) Information received at the toll-free number is confidential until the time that the legislative auditor or other appropriate agency determines the validity of the information and takes corrective action. After the legislative auditor or other appropriate agency takes action to verify the fraud, waste, or abuse complained of and takes any corrective action, information concerning the subject of the complaint and the remedy, if any, is public information unless precluded by law.

(4) The legislative auditor shall, as directed by the legislative audit committee, periodically report to the committee on:

(a) the use of the toll-free number;

(b) the results of the reviews, verifications, and referrals; and

(c) any corrective actions taken by the appropriate agencies.

(5) Information received at the toll-free number concerning a governmental entity other than state government may be referred by the legislative auditor to an appropriate federal, state, or local government agency.

(6) (a) If the legislative auditor determines that as a result of a review and verification or referral pursuant to this section, a waste of state resources has occurred, the legislative auditor shall report the matter in writing to the legislative fiscal analyst.

(b) Upon completion of the investigation, the legislative auditor shall provide a copy of the report to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210. Confidential or personal information must be redacted.

(7) The legislative auditor shall advertise the existence and purpose of the toll-free number in an appropriate manner.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.

5-13-312. Deposit of money recovered. Unless otherwise provided by law, money recovered as a result of an action taken pursuant to 5-13-311 must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 20, Sp. L. November 1993.**

5-13-313. Audit selection based on risk. (1) In selecting and prioritizing the agencies or programs for audit under 5-13-304, the legislative auditor shall consider the agency's or program's financial, operational, and technological risks associated with meeting its intended purpose, goals, objectives, and legal mandates.

(2) To aid in identifying agencies and programs for audit, the committee shall, before July 1 of each odd-numbered year, request that the governor, the board of regents, and the judiciary furnish the committee with a list of any recommendations for agencies and programs within the governor's, board of regents', or judiciary's respective jurisdiction to be considered for audit during the next biennium pursuant to this chapter. The list may be prioritized and must set forth the reasons for recommending each agency or program to be considered based on the risk criteria in subsection (1).

(3) The legislative auditor shall review the lists, suggestions from legislators and legislative committees, staff recommendations, and any other relevant information and consult with the committee as necessary.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 91, L. 2007.**

5-13-314. Employment protection. An employee of the state of Montana or an authorized contractor who provides information to the committee, the legislative auditor, or the legislative auditor's authorized designee may not be subject to any penalties, sanctions, retaliation, or restrictions in connection with the employee's or contractor's employment as a result of the disclosure of information unless the employee or contractor disclosing the information has violated state law.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 91, L. 2007.**

5-13-315 through 5-13-320 reserved.

5-13-321. Joint audits. (1) The legislative auditor may participate with audit oversight organizations on joint audits of Montana programs or services. For the purpose of the joint audits, the legislative auditor may cooperate with the audit oversight organizations, accept and provide information necessary to the success of the joint audits, and enter into contracts for the performance of the joint audits. Audits authorized by this section may examine all or any part of the financing or performance of a program, whether operated directly by a state agency or by a contractor with a state agency. Joint audits are subject to the audit standards, objectives, and reporting procedures required by state law and as required in applicable federal laws, regulations, and policies.

(2) Audit costs of the legislative auditor for conducting joint audits authorized by subsection (1) are considered direct costs of the state agency or program subject to the audit. Funds for the payment of the expenses of the legislative auditor must be deposited in the state special revenue fund as provided in 5-13-403. To the maximum extent allowable under federal regulations, the legislative auditor shall charge audit costs of joint audits to federal funds.

(3) Audits conducted pursuant to this section must be approved by the committee as part of the operational plan of the legislative auditor.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 91, L. 2007.**

Part 4
Audit Costs and Contracts

5-13-401. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" means each state office, department, division, board, commission, council, committee, institution, university system unit, or other entity or instrumentality of the executive branch, office of the judicial branch, or office of the legislative branch of state government.

(2) "Audit services" means financial compliance post audits as required by this chapter.

(3) "University system unit" means the board of regents or its units.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1981.

5-13-402. Audit costs. (1) Prior to July 1 of the year preceding the regular session in which the legislature is adopting a state budget:

(a) the legislative auditor shall advise each agency and the budget director of the estimated audit costs for the following biennium. Each agency shall include the estimated audit costs in its proposed budget submitted to the budget director pursuant to 17-7-112. The budget director shall notify the legislative auditor if the executive budget recommendation to the legislature for audit costs differs from that proposed by the legislative auditor.

(b) the community college districts shall advise the budget director of the estimated audit costs for the following biennium. The budget director shall notify the community college districts if the executive budget recommendation to the legislature for audit costs differs from that proposed by the community college districts.

(2) Not later than 60 days after adjournment of each legislature, the budget director shall provide to the legislative auditor a schedule reflecting, by fund, amounts appropriated to each agency for audit costs.

(3) The legislative auditor shall bill agencies for audit services that the legislative auditor considers necessary. The legislative auditor may not bill an agency for audit services in excess of amounts appropriated for audit services. Additional audit-related services may be provided by the legislative auditor at a cost agreed to by an agency and billed to the agency.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 24, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 257, Ch. 61, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 168, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 2021.

5-13-403. Audit account — appropriation and expenditures. All money for audits transferred to the legislative auditor as provided in 5-13-402 must be deposited in the state special revenue fund in the state treasury to the credit of the office of the legislative auditor. The money deposited that is in excess of general and pay plan appropriations is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, and may be expended by the legislative auditor to pay expenses incurred in auditing state agencies pursuant to an operational plan approved by the legislative audit committee.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 24, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 1993.

5-13-404. Legislative audit specialist services reserve account. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund established by 17-2-102 to the credit of the legislative auditor to be known as the legislative audit specialist services reserve account. Money may be deposited in the account through an allocation of money to the account or as provided in 17-7-304.

(2) The money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the legislative auditor and may be used only for contracted services necessary to provide specialist expertise in support of activities authorized under this chapter.

(3) Allocations of money to the account must be approved by the legislative audit committee provided for in 5-13-201, and the balance in the account may not exceed $50,000, not including interest earnings.

(4) The money in the account may be expended with the approval of the legislative auditor, who shall advise and consult with the legislative audit committee on the use of the money and the disposition of the account.

(5) The money in the account must be invested pursuant to Title 17, chapter 6. The income and earnings on the account must be deposited in the account.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 2019.

5-13-405 through 5-13-410 reserved.

5-13-411. Legislative auditor to approve contracts for audit services. No contract for an audit of a state agency may be entered into without the approval of the legislative auditor.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 24, L. 1981.

CHAPTER 14
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE COMMITTEE
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Composition, Terms, and Officers (Repealed)

Part 1
Composition, Terms, and Officers
(Repealed)

5-14-101. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: En. 82-4203.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203.2(part).

5-14-102. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: En. 82-4203.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203.2(part).

5-14-103. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: En. 82-4203.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203.2(part); amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

5-14-104. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

History: En. 82-4203.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 285, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-4203.2(part).

CHAPTER 15
LEGISLATIVE CONSUMER COMMITTEE
CONSUMER COUNSEL

Part 1 — Legislative Consumer Committee
5-15-101. Legislative consumer committee — appointment and composition.
5-15-102. Ineligibility for appointment.
5-15-103. Term of office.
5-15-104. Vacancies.
5-15-105. Officers.

Part 2 — Consumer Counsel
5-15-201. Consumer counsel — appointment and qualifications.

Part 1
Legislative Consumer Committee

Part Cross-References

Structure and organization of Consumer Committee, Title 69, ch. 1, part 2.
Role of Consumer Counsel, Title 69, ch. 2, part 2.
Advice of distributors and consumers regarding energy development, 90-4-306.

5-15-101. Legislative consumer committee — appointment and composition. (1) There is a legislative consumer committee consisting of:

(a) three members of the senate, two from the majority party and one from the minority party; and

(b) three members of the house of representatives, two from the majority party and one from the minority party.

(2) Members shall be appointed in the same manner as standing committees of the respective houses before the 60th legislative day of the legislative session following the

expiration of the terms of the members of the committee. [No more than one of the appointees of each house may be members of the same political party.]

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 65, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 70-703(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 432, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 9, Ch. 432, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

2023 Code Commissioner Correction: The Code Commissioner has inserted the bracketed language in (2) to reflect text that should be stricken in order to avoid a statutory inconsistency with the amendments made to this section by sec. 9, Ch. 432, L. 2023, which changed the composition of committee membership for each house to two members from the majority party and one member from the minority party.

5-15-102. Ineligibility for appointment. A person who is an employee, agent, officer, partner, or director of a regulated company or who has served a regulated company in any capacity within the 3 years previous to the person's appointment may not be a member of the committee.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 65, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 70-703(3); amd. Sec. 258, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-15-103. Term of office. A member shall serve until the member's term of office as a legislator ends and until a successor is appointed.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 65, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 70-703(6); amd. Sec. 259, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

5-15-104. Vacancies. A vacancy on the committee occurring when the legislature is not in session shall be filled by the selection of a legislator by the remaining members of the committee. If there is a vacancy on the committee at the beginning of a legislative session because a member's term of office as a legislator has ended, a member of the same political party must be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment, no later than the 10th legislative day, to serve until a successor is appointed under 5-15-101.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 65, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 70-703(4); amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

5-15-105. Officers. The committee shall elect one of its members as presiding officer and other officers that it determines necessary.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 65, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 70-703(7); amd. Sec. 260, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Part 2
Consumer Counsel

Part Cross-References

Consumer Counsel, Art. XIII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.

Structure and organization of Consumer Counsel, Title 69, ch. 1, part 2.

5-15-201. Consumer counsel — appointment and qualifications. The committee shall appoint a consumer counsel and set the consumer counsel's salary. The consumer counsel must have the following minimum qualifications and additional qualifications that the committee determines appropriate:

(1) a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university with a major or minor in accounting or allied fields;

(2) be admitted to practice law in Montana courts and in the United States district court for the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 65, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 70-705; amd. Sec. 261, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Compiler's Comments

Select Committee — Membership: Section 1, Ch. 579, L. 2023, provided for the membership of the select committee on energy resource planning and acquisition, which included the consumer counsel or a designee. Effective May 18, 2023, and terminates December 31, 2024.

CHAPTER 16
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

Part 1 — Composition, Terms, and Officers

5-16-101. Appointment and composition.
5-16-102. Qualifications.
5-16-103. Term of office.
5-16-104. Vacancies.
5-16-105. Officers.

Chapter Cross-References

Environmental policy, Title 75, ch. 1.
Water Policy Committee duties, 85-2-105.
Water adjudication fees — reports, 85-2-281.

Part 1
Composition, Terms, and Officers

5-16-101. Appointment and composition. The environmental quality council consists of 17 members as follows:

(1) the governor or the governor's designated representative is an ex officio member of the council and shall participate in council meetings as a nonvoting member;

(2) six members of the senate and six members of the house of representatives appointed before the 50th legislative day in the same manner as standing committees of the respective houses are appointed. Four of the appointees of each house must be members of the majority party and two appointees of each house must be members of the minority party.

(3) four members of the general public. Two public members must be appointed by the speaker of the house with the consent of the house minority leader, and two must be appointed by the president of the senate with the consent of the senate minority leader.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 238, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 492, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6508(part); amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 432, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 10, Ch. 432, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Legislative review of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 4.
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 33.
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Title 2, ch. 15, part 34.
Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.
Environmental impact statements, 75-1-201.
Environmental Quality Council — organization, Title 75, ch. 1, part 3.
Water adjudication fees — reports, 85-2-281.

5-16-102. Qualifications. (1) In considering the appointments under 5-16-101(2) and (3), consideration must be given to the appointees' qualifications to:

(a) analyze and interpret environmental trends and information of all kinds;

(b) appraise programs and activities of the state government in the light of the policy set forth in 75-1-103;

(c) be conscious of and responsive to the scientific, economic, social, aesthetic, and cultural needs and interests of the state; and

(d) formulate and recommend state policies to promote the improvement of the quality of the environment.

(2) At least 50% of the members appointed pursuant to 5-16-101(2) must be selected from the standing committees that consider issues within the jurisdiction of the environmental quality council.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 238, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 492, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6508(part); amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

5-16-103. Term of office. The terms of office of all council members are 2 years and terminate upon appointment of a new council before the 50th legislative day.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 238, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 492, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6509(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 2015.

5-16-104. Vacancies. (1) A vacancy on the council of a member appointed under 5-16-101(2) occurring when the legislature is not in session must be filled by the selection of a member of the legislature by the same method as the original appointment. If there is a vacancy on the committee at the beginning of a legislative session because a member's term of office as a legislator has ended, a member of the same political party must be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment, no later than the 10th legislative day, to serve until a successor is appointed under 5-16-101.

(2) When a vacancy on the council of a member appointed under 5-16-101(3) has occurred or is expected to occur, the appointing authority shall post a notice by electronic means announcing the actual or anticipated vacancy and describing the procedure for applying for appointment.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 238, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 492, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6508(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 142, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 289, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 289, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 26, 2023.

5-16-105. Officers. The council shall elect one of its members as presiding officer and other officers that it determines necessary. An officer is elected for a term of 2 years.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 238, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 492, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6509(2); amd. Sec. 262, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

CHAPTER 17
CAPITOL BUILDING AND PLANNING — RESTORATION
(Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 1 — Capitol Building and Planning Committee (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 2 — Capitol Restoration Commission (Repealed)

Part 3 — Pearl Harbor Memorial Committee (Repealed)

Part 1
Capitol Building and Planning Committee
(Renumbered and Repealed)

5-17-101. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 7, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 608, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 700, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1987.

5-17-102. Renumbered 5-11-115. Code Commissioner, 1993.

5-17-103. Renumbered 5-11-116. Code Commissioner, 1993.

5-17-104. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 7, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 141, L. 1979.

Part 2
Capitol Restoration Commission
(Repealed)

5-17-201. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 689, L. 1991.

5-17-202. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 689, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 10, L. 1993.

5-17-203. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 689, L. 1991.

5-17-204. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 689, L. 1991.

5-17-205. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 689, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

5-17-206. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 689, L. 1991.

5-17-207. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 689, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 1995.

Part 3
Pearl Harbor Memorial Committee
(Repealed)

5-17-301. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 25, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 75, L. 1993.**

5-17-302. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 25, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 75, L. 1993.**

5-17-303. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 25, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 75, L. 1993.**

CHAPTER 18
REVENUE AND TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Powers and Duties (Repealed)

Part 2 — Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee (Repealed)

Part 1
Powers and Duties
(Repealed)

5-18-101. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 1979.**

5-18-102. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1979.**

5-18-103. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 268, L. 1979.**

5-18-104. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 268, L. 1979.**

5-18-105. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 268, L. 1979.**

5-18-106. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 268, L. 1979.**

5-18-107. Repealed. Sec. 137, Ch. 114, L. 2003.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 268, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 572, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 608, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 603, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 40, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 302, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 46, L. 1999.**

5-18-108. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 268, L. 1979.**

5-18-109. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 268, L. 1979.**

5-18-110. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 268, L. 1979.**

5-18-111 through 5-18-114 reserved.

5-18-115. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 13, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993.**

Part 2
Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee
(Repealed)

5-18-201. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 40, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 695, L. 1983.**

5-18-202. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 40, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 695, L. 1983.**

5-18-203. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 40, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 695, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 94, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 112, L. 1991.**

CHAPTER 19
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

5-19-101. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 630, L. 1989.**

5-19-102. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 630, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 636, L. 1993.**

5-19-103. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 630, L. 1989.**

5-19-104. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 630, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 545, L. 1995.**

5-19-105. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 630, L. 1989.**

5-19-106. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 630, L. 1989.**

5-19-107. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 630, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 545, L. 1995.**

5-19-108. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 630, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 112, L. 1991.**

CHAPTER 20
EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES

Part 1 — Committee on Educational Accountability and Quality (Terminated)

Part 2 — Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget (Repealed)

Part 3 — School Funding Interim Commission
5-20-301. School funding interim commission.

Part 1
Committee on Educational Accountability and Quality
(Terminated)

5-20-101. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.**

5-20-102. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.

5-20-103. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.

5-20-104. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.

5-20-105. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.

5-20-106. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 3, Sp. L. June 1989.

Part 2

Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget (Repealed)

5-20-201. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 387, L. 1993.

5-20-202. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 387, L. 1993.

5-20-203. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 387, L. 1993.

5-20-204. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 387, L. 1993.

5-20-205. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 1993.

5-20-206. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 387, L. 1993.

5-20-207. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 387, L. 1993.

5-20-208. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 387, L. 1993.

Part 3

School Funding Interim Commission

5-20-301. School funding interim commission. (1) There is a school funding interim commission that must be formed during the 2015-2016 interim and each successive fifth interim pursuant to 20-9-309. The commission shall:

(a) conduct a study to reassess the educational needs and costs related to the basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools; and

(b) if necessary, recommend to the following legislature changes to the state's funding formula.

(2) In conducting the study, the commission may:

(a) review the work of previous studies and commissions;

(b) consider recommendations and topics provided by other interim or standing legislative committees, the board of public education, the office of public instruction, the governor's office, private organizations, professional educators, school trustees, and members of the public;

(c) review how the state's education funding policy has evolved as a result of litigation;

(d) seek input from representatives from the board of public education, the office of public instruction, the governor's office, private organizations, professional educators, school trustees, and members of the public;

(e) consider the state's existing and projected financial resources as well as the needs and concerns of Montana taxpayers;

(f) authorize research and studies to be conducted by reputable and reliable experts in the public or private sectors; and

(g) request research and analysis from the legislative fiscal division, the office of public instruction, the department of revenue, and any other state agency or entity that maintains information or data relevant to the study.

(3) The members of the commission are:

(a) six members of the house of representatives, three from the majority party and three from the minority party, appointed by the speaker of the house in consultation with the house majority leader and the house minority leader;

(b) six members of the senate, three from the majority party and three from the minority party, appointed by the president of the senate in consultation with the senate majority leader and the senate minority leader; and

(c) four members of the public to be appointed as follows:

(i) two public members appointed by the speaker of the house with the consent of the house minority leader; and

(ii) two public members appointed by the president of the senate with the consent of the senate minority leader.

(4) The commission shall select its presiding officer at the first meeting of the commission.

(5) The commission is attached for administrative purposes to the legislative services division, and the legislative services division shall provide sufficient and appropriate support to the commission in order that it may carry out its statutory duties, within the limitations of legislative appropriations.

(6) The commission is staffed by the legislative services division. The legislative fiscal analyst shall assign staff to assist the commission.

(7) The commission shall issue a report to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210 on the commission's findings and recommendations, including any draft legislation for amending the state school funding formula.

(8) Unless the person is a full-time salaried officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state, a nonlegislative member appointed to the commission is entitled to salary and expenses to the same extent as a legislative member. If the appointee is a full-time salaried officer or employee of the state or of a political subdivision of the state, the appointee is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools defined — identifying educationally relevant factors — establishment of funding formula and budgetary structure — legislative review, 20-9-309.

CHAPTER 21
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

5-21-101. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 549, L. 1993.

5-21-102. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 549, L. 1993.

5-21-103. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 549, L. 1993.

5-21-104. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 549, L. 1993.**

5-21-105. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 549, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 552, L. 1995.**

CHAPTER 22
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

5-22-101. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 414, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

5-22-102. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 414, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 1997.**

CHAPTER 23
COMMITTEE ON STATE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Composition — Powers and Duties — Reports (Repealed)

Part 1
Composition — Powers and Duties — Reports
(Repealed)

5-23-101. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 1997.**

5-23-102. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 391, L. 1997.**

5-23-103. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 391, L. 1997.**

5-23-104. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 391, L. 1997.**

5-23-105. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 391, L. 1997.**

5-23-106. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 391, L. 1997.**

5-23-107. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 391, L. 1997.**

5-23-108. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 391, L. 1997.**

5-23-109. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 19, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 391, L. 1997.**

TITLE 6

RESERVED

Montana State Library
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